

Navratilova wins 9th Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Martina Navratilova won her record ninth Wimbledon singles title Saturday with a 6-4, 6-1 defeat of Zina Garrison, ending a nearly flawless serve-and-volley attack to win the all-American title. Navratilova, 33, who won six consecutive championships from 1982 to 1987 but had lost the past two years to the final to Steffi Graf, had shared the record of eight singles titles with Helen Wills Moody. She raced into the stands after the victory to hug and kiss members of her entourage, including coach Billie Jean King. Navratilova is now only three titles from King's record of 20 championships overall at Wimbledon. Fifth seed Garrison, who eliminated third-seeded Monica Seles and top seed Graf to reach her first grand slam final, was erratic against Navratilova and ineffective at the net. She made several errors on volleys and was passed in the first set and matched that first in the second set. She broke Garrison's serve four times, three times in the first set. Boris Becker advanced Friday to his third straight Wimbledon final against Stefan Edberg, who ended Ivan Lendl's annual quest for Wimbledon glory in straight sets.

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Powell to visit Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — General Colin L. Powell, the top military officer in the United States, announced plans Friday to visit five Mideast countries. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was to leave Saturday from Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland for Morocco and also will visit Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel for talks on regional security issues. He is scheduled to return to Washington on July 13. No other details of the trip were made public.

ANC stages anti-violence rallies

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Thousands of African National Congress (ANC) supporters marched in towns and cities across the country Saturday to protest black factional fighting. The fighting, in Natal province, has claimed thousands of lives. Official permission was granted for about 20 peace marches planned by the ANC, and its allies, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front, to mark the end of a week of national protest against the violence. Petitions protesting the violence were presented to authorities at various police stations throughout the country. But authorities refused applications for marches in five towns which have been the scenes of racial conflict and white right-wing activity in recent months. The weeklong protest was aimed at drawing attention to four years of conflict in Natal between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha, a conservative Zulu party. More than 4,000 people have died in the violence, which the ANC claims is caused by Inkatha.

Walesa, Mazowiecki hold secret talks

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki met at a secret location Saturday to explore a truce in their political duel. As they met, thousands of farmers demonstrated angrily outside the seat of government. The meeting, confirmed by an assistant to the prime minister, came as Mazowiecki's Solidarity-led government is under increasing pressure from all sides. In an attempt to deflect the criticism, the prime minister ousted three of the four communists in his cabinet Friday and caved in to Walesa's calls for elections earlier than next year. He also appealed to the public, and especially farmers, for patience and self-restraint.

4 OPEC ministers to visit Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Foreign ministers from four OPEC countries are to visit Iran in August have asked to meet President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to discuss how to stabilize oil prices, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Saturday. It said the ministers from Algeria, Nigeria, Venezuela and Indonesia would also visit Arab Gulf states as part of a tour agreed during the G-16 meeting of Third World countries in Kuala Lumpur in June.

Italy scores 3rd place in World Cup

BARI, Italy (AP) — Salvatore Schillaci scored a penalty with six minutes remaining to lift Italy to a 2-1 win over England Saturday in the World Cup third-place playoff. Schillaci's goal was his sixth of the tournament and took him to the head of the tournament goalkeepers' list. The penalty was given after defender Paul Parker fouled Schillaci in the penalty area. Italy had taken a 70th minute lead through Roberto Baggio after a mistake by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, but England equalized 10 minutes later with a header from midfielder David Platt. Shilton was pushing the ball along the ground with his hands when Baggio struck for the first goal, dispossessing the goalie from behind. The striker eluded the lunging dive of Shilton and passed the ball to co-striker Schillaci on the edge of the area. Schillaci got the ball back in front of goal and he rammed it into the net.

King receives Libyan message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on "several Arab and Islamic issues and the current situation in the international scene," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The message was delivered by Colonel Mustafa Al Kharoubi, a member of the Libyan Revolutionary Council, who also conveyed to the King greetings from Qadhafi, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Culture Minister Khaled Al Karaki, and Ahmad Ben Khayyat, director of the Arab Affairs Department of the Libyan Foreign Ministry.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with Libyan envoy Mustafa Kharoubi, who delivered to him a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi (Petra photo).

King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Culture Minister Khaled Al Karaki, and Ahmad Ben Khayyat, director of the Arab Affairs Department of the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Kharoubi arrived here earlier in the day. The Libyan envoy's visit to Jordan follows the reopening last month of the Kingdom's embassy in Tripoli after a five-year closure.

The King met with Qadhafi during the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad in May. He accepted an invitation by Qadhafi to visit Libya but no date has been set for the visit.

Sharon expects million Soviet emigres by 1991

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon has predicted a million Soviet Jews will immigrate to Israel by the end of 1991 but local leaders say jobs and homes will be scarce.

"We know that within a year and a half the number of immigrants... will come within a million people," Sharon told Israel Television Friday night. His estimate far exceeded more conservative Israeli forecasts of up to 250,000 Soviet immigrants by the end of this year and a million immigrants within the next five years.

Sharon offered no explanation for the new figure, which would increase Israel's population by a quarter. More than 50,000 Soviet Jews arrived in the first half of 1990.

"If they will come to live here and have no jobs, they will run away," Menachem Ariav, mayor of the town Nazareth Illit, said in an interview with army radio.

"It will be a catastrophe," said Adi Eddar, mayor of the town Carmel, in a reference to

rising predictions for immigration. He called for emergency measures for industry to create jobs.

Sharon, the hawkish former defense minister who ordered Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said his ministry estimated that 7,000 apartments a month would have to be built by December to offset a severe housing shortage. Currently, the government builds 7,000 apartments a year.

He has asked the new right-wing government for emergency powers to build apartments and import prefabricated homes. Last week he received limited approval to circumvent legal procedures and put 3,000 prefabricated homes.

Critics fear the move will result in zoning and land-use laws being put aside, creating insoluble environmental and social problems.

The rash of immigrants has sent housing prices soaring and put Israeli families out on the street. Tent encampments of homeless have sprung up in at least two places.

Israelis kill Palestinian in prison breakout bid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Guards at a military detention camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank shot dead a Palestinian during an overnight jailbreak, the military said Saturday.

The killing came as the underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising called for a day to commemorate Arab inmates who died or were killed by Israelis in prisons since the outbreak of the revolt against Israeli rule 31 months ago.

"Guards at Ofer prison saw a prisoner trying to escape and ordered him to stop... they fired at him when he did not stop. He died in hospital," the military said.

The military said the prisoner, Tzabari Mansour Abdullah Abed Rabbo, died after arrival at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. The case is under investigation by prison commanders and military police, the army said.

Abed Rabbo, of Al Jib village near Ramallah, was arrested last January on suspicion of participating in protests and stone-throwing, and his trial was scheduled to start July 12 at the Ramallah military court, the army said.

The tent prison, outside the West Bank town of Beitunia near Ramallah, usually holds between 550 and 650 detainees who are brought from other prisons for trial at the Ramallah military court. Arab human rights researchers said.

Palestinians reported that Israeli soldiers carried out search-and-arrest operations on Friday night in the villages of Silwad, Qarawat Bani Zaid and Kufri

Nimeh, all in the Ramallah area and detained at least 12 people. Troops also raided the villages of Rantis, Aboud, Mazraa Sharikiyeh and Deir Qaddis, in the Ramallah district and ordered residents to remove rocks from streets and paint over slogans, residents said.

Meanwhile, Israel's new defense minister intends to relax the army's grip in the occupied territories to lay the groundwork for a new peace initiative, a report said Friday.

The move by the right-wing Defense Minister Moshe Arens is aimed at avoiding cutbacks in U.S. aid, which Israel fears may follow the present stalemate in peace efforts, the Hebrew daily Yediot Ahronot reported.

The new plan is being prepared by Arens as it becomes apparent that the U.S.-supported idea of preliminary Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo will not get off the ground, wrote Ron Ben-Yishai, a respected military commentator.

Israeli hardliners have rejected the American proposal, saying it would mean negotiating with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representatives. The Bush administration has shown an increasing impatience with Israel's reluctance to start talking to Palestinians.

Bush, speaking Friday at a press conference in London, urged Israel to take action (see page 2).

Arens wants to bypass the problematic Cairo talks and the issue of PLO role by initiating a series of confidence-building measures culminating in municipal elections.

Gorbachev aides defy hardliners

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Mikhail Gorbachev's top lieutenants, in a defiant last stand at the Soviet Communist Party congress, told hardline critics Saturday that their past power could not affect a changing world.

Alexander Yakovlev and Vadim Medvedev, both of whom said they planned to quit the party politburo, dismissed charges from majority conservatives that they had helped cause a decline in party power by failing to lay down a firm line.

The two officials struck back for the leadership, as the conservatives looked set to take control of top party bodies. Gorbachev's own position as party chief remains secure.

Gorbachev intervened from the podium at the afternoon session to head off the assault after hardliners pushed through a plan to take votes on the personal performance of the once untouchable politburo members.

The party leader, using his prestige and tactical instinct, outmaneuvered conservatives by rushing through a counterproposal for a vote on the leadership as a whole in place of individual assessments. Then he called a break.

He had opened the sixth day of the session with a clear blast at the hardliners: "If you want to bury or split the party, then let us follow this course. The time has come for you... to think and think seriously."

The delegates voted 2,557-1,393 Saturday to give themselves

a chance to voice their appraisal of each member of the 12-member ruling politburo. But after a short break, Gorbachev took the podium to criticize the proposal, and the congress backed down on the idea on a vote of 2,495-1,515.

The evaluations would have had no actual force, because the congress chooses a new central committee, which would have selected a new politburo anyway. But it clearly has left a mark on each man's career.

Gorbachev cited a note from the party delegation from the northern city of Arkhangelsk that said: "There is no need to evaluate each politburo member. The politburo, according to the rules, is an organ of the leadership, and the leadership is collective."

Instead, the congress agreed to make an evaluation of the work of the policy-making central committee, and within it the politburo as a whole.

Evaluating each politburo member separately would have broken decades of tradition of regarding it as a collective entity. The idea brought criticism in the corridors of the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses from liberal delegates.

"Our Russian thirst for blood is showing," said Lina Demutiyeva, a Moscow delegate. "It's stupid and ugly and inhuman."

But other party members said they backed the decision because it would let future leaders know that they could not hide behind

Mladenov resignation fails to satisfy activists

SOFIA (R) — Hundreds of Bulgarian intellectuals whose protests helped push President Petar Mladenov from office, said Saturday they would not end their protests until other demands were met.

The protesters, who have staged a sit-down strike on the pavement outside the president's offices for the past three days, said they had issued demands including an open trial for disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov and full details of the wealth of the ruling socialists, formerly the Communist Party.

Mladenov, 53, who ousted Zhivkov on Nov. 10, resigned Friday evening amid mounting demands that he quit, sparked by an amateur video showing him ordering tanks to move against anti-government protesters last December.

He said he was quitting "in order not to be a reason to increase political tension." News of the resignation was met with wild delight by the pavement protesters.

Despite heavy winds and rain, some 200 demonstrators spent Friday night on the same stretch of pavement, which they marked "communist-free zone." The protesters, including teachers and university lecturers, said they did not support any political party and expected their numbers to swell later on Saturday.

"We want democracy and a fair trial of the people who caused the present tragic situation in Bulgaria," one protester said.

Some demonstrators have erected tents near the offices in a central Sofia square. Other protesters said they would settle for written assurances that their demands would be considered — provided they were given before the country's newly-elected national assembly holds its first meeting next Tuesday.

Mladenov's resignation after only three months as president followed mounting calls for him to quit from street protesters, opposition parties and even Douma, the newspaper of his own Socialist Party.

Lower House endorses law on higher court with amendments

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday passed the law establishing the Higher Court of Justice in a session whose outcome was described by deputies as very significant.

The law originally drafted by the government of former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in 1989 empowers the court to look into disputes between the government and civil servants, a task until early last year was handled by the court of appeals.

The court is already functioning under the terms of the draft law which was enacted in March 1989 in the absence of Parliament.

The court will be empowered to look into disputes between the government and people, especially civil servants, over the former's administrative decisions. It will also handle disputes over contracts with the government and over disputes resulting from municipal or union elections. Most of the debate during Saturday's session centred on de-

tails and wordings of the law. The House had in five past sessions discussed eight articles of the draft law, but in Saturday's debate the remaining 24 articles were passed in four hours.

One point that consumed most of the debate was whether the court should also decide on financial compensation where one is sought.

The House's Legal Committee recommended that the court should have the power to decide over both the dispute and amount of compensation payable.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran noted that "compensation should be left to civil courts," where a three-tier judicial system would be fairer for both the claimant and the defender.

Deputy Abdullah Ensour (Salt) agreed with the prime minister's opinion and said he thought "a one-time court decision is not fair to the state."

Defending the Legal Committee's recommendation, the committee's chairman, Hussein Mjaily, said: "The court has five experienced and senior judges who with their experience will

compensate for the three-tier judicial system."

Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen urged the House to look at the experience of other countries in this field. "Look at Egypt; they have opted for the three-tier system," he said.

Mjaily, however, said that that was not the case in Egypt and that the Egyptian higher court of justice is deciding on compensation as well.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Dughmi supported Mjaily's view and said: "I am for the court deciding on compensation."

Islamist Deputy Abdul Hafiz Elawi (Madaba), then protested that the debate over the issue took a long time. The article was put to vote and passed.

Another point of contention was a stipulation in the draft law that lawyers representing claimants and defenders be senior advocates with at least five-year experience at a high court.

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Strong tremor jolts Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A powerful aftershock jolted northwestern Iran during the night, injuring two people and causing landslides in a quake-shattered province on the Caspian Sea, the official media reported Saturday.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) also reported a significantly less intense tremor near the southern city of Yazd at 9:30 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) Saturday.

IRNA and Tehran Radio said the aftershock struck Rndbar city, in Gilan province, at 11:05 p.m. local time (1935 GMT) Friday. Tehran University's geophysics centre said it registered 5.9 on the open-ended Richter scale. The quake near Yazd, 600 kilometres from Tehran, measured 4.9, the centre said.

The Friday night aftershock in the northwest was felt in Tehran, 300 kilometres to the southeast, and Rasht, capital of Gilan. It panicked residents of both cities, but caused no casualties or damage, IRNA said.

The agency and the radio in-

Iran says hostage to be released soon

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran's official Islamic republic news agency (IRNA) said Saturday one of 16 Western hostages held in Lebanon will soon be freed.

IRNA attributed its dispatch from Beirut to "informed sources."

"A Western hostage held in Lebanon will probably be released soon," said the report.

It said that the sources would not disclose the identity of the hostage to be released, but "hinted that he is most probably a European national."

"It is not known when and where the hostage will be released," IRNA's two-paragraph report said.

The hostages are six Americans and 10 Europeans — four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

In Beirut, a source close to the Syrian army command said if a hostage were to be released, it will "probably" be Brian Keenan, the Irishman who also holds a British passport. The source refused to be named or provide any other information.

Keenan, 39, was kidnapped in west Beirut April 11, 1985, as he walked from his home to the American University of Beirut, where he taught English. No group has claimed the

abduction of Keenan, of Belfast. But American educator Frank Reed said after his release from captivity in Lebanon last April that he had seen Keenan.

Two underground factions, the Organisation of Islamic Dawn and the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Omar Mukhtar Brigade, had claimed to hold Reed.

The abduction of most of the Westerners has been claimed by various previously unknown groups. But accounts by captives released over the past few years indicate these factions are linked to each other and operating under the umbrella of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizbollah.

Iran played a key role in mediating the release of Reed and another American, Robert Polhill, who also was released in April.

It demanded a "gesture of goodwill" from the United States and Western government in return for pursuing its efforts to secure the release of the others.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials have explained that the goodwill they were seeking is pressure on Israel to release about 300 inmates, most of them

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Tirana to allow asylum seekers under foreign supervision

VIENNA (Agencies) — Thousands of freedom-seeking Albanians who crowded into a dozen embassies will be allowed to leave the country under foreign supervision, a Hungarian diplomat in Tirana said Saturday.

The diplomat, who spoke by telephone from the Albanian capital on condition of anonymity, said the logistics of the departure had not yet been worked out.

But he said ambassadors of the embassies harbouring up to 5,000 Albanians had been told by Foreign Ministry officials that their personnel could supervise the issuing of travel documents and accompany the emigres to their new homelands.

The diplomat said only those who had been accepted by a foreign country could leave, however.

"Albanian citizens who have entered the foreign diplomatic representations accredited in Albania and come out from them (will) be excluded from penal prosecution for offences related to this act," the official ATA news agency quoted a decree issued by the presidium of Albania's people's assembly as saying.

It said the decree would be effective immediately.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in Geneva Saturday he believed the Albanian authorities would give passports to those who wanted them.

"I am confident that the Albanian government will give passports to all these Albanians who want to leave their country," he told reporters.

He said he has been serving as an intermediary between Albania and the governments whose embassies have been flooded by refugees.

About 10,000 pro-democracy demonstrators gathered in a square near the embassies Friday in the largest demonstration of its kind

in 45 years of communist rule, Austria's APA news agency reported. The silent rally dispersed after a brief clash between police and some demonstrators.

The rush on the embassies continued overnight, and there reportedly were up to 5,000 people in more than a dozen missions Saturday.

The Foreign Ministry Thursday promised to grant passports to those who have sought refuge in foreign embassies in a desperate attempt to flee their homeland, which borders Greece and Yugoslavia.

But Saturday's parliamentary decree was the first pledge with the force of law that all Albanians in the foreign missions could come out and receive passports without fear or prosecution.

Hungary's ambassador to Albania, Mihaly Komidesz, said Saturday on Hungarian state radio that Albanian authorities had agreed to allow asylum seekers at his mission to leave the

(Continued on page 3)

Israel tries low-profile tactics in 'liberated' Rafah

By Jonathan Karp
Reuter

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops have taken a new low-profile in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah, leaving masked Palestinian activists to roam unhindered in streets bedecked with banned Palestinian flags.

Palestinian and military sources say for the past two months troops have stayed out of sight in Rafah to reduce deaths in the militant anti-Israeli town and adjoining refugee camp, home to some 140,000 Palestinians.

June marked the first month of the 31-month-old Palestinian uprising that the army had killed no Palestinians in Gaza, the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said Thursday.

Throughout Rafah, the Palestinian colours dominate the streets and the olive green of Israeli uniforms is seldom seen.

Merchants said they had not seen troops in the centre of town for weeks.

In what Palestinians said was unprecedented behaviour, scores of masked youths from various political groups often walk the streets during daylight hours, banding out leaflets and spray-painting nationalist graffiti.

An experienced Gaza journalist said he could hardly believe what was happening. "I asked myself: 'What the hell is this, are we in occupied territory?' It was as if there were preparing the town for independence."

Military sources said that in recent months troops had stopped ordering Rafah residents to remove flags and white-wash graffiti.

"These are little things. The main issue is that troops do not go into Rafah unless there is something special. Rafah is

isolated from soldiers, some would say it is liberated," a military source said.

Military sources said the military low profile was a new tactic aimed at avoiding clashes. It has not been adopted in other parts of the strip.

At the southern tip of the 45-kilometre strip and straddling the Egyptian border, Rafah is the most remote and least accessible area in Gaza.

During the intifada, Rafah has witnessed some of the fiercest clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces. Troops have sometimes wounded more than 100 Palestinians in Rafah in a single day.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said during a visit to the Gaza Strip Thursday he would cut troops in the occupied areas if uprising violence eased.



An aerial view of a quake-hit village in northwest Iran

Tragedies of quake weigh heavily as Iran village recovers

By Alexander G. Higgins
The Associated Press

HARZEVIL — Ebrahim Najafi went to sleep looking forward to his wedding the following night to a girl from the next street in this Alborz mountain village.

Their parents were discussing the plans in the next room, and the girl's aunt was staying up late to put the finishing touches on the bride's dress.

Now his bride-to-be is dead, the 24-year-old war veteran is jobless and his home is a pile of crumbling mud bricks and bamboo sticks clinging to a mountainside.

He said he did not find the widespread depression he saw in Soviet Armenia after the 1988 earthquake there.

As in other towns and villages, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has put up tents to house the villagers within walking distance of their destroyed homes.

Harzevil was a quiet place of about 500 families, many of them related.

Many of the men worked in the power plant at Loshan, a few kilometres up the valley. Some of the residents added to their income by selling the olives and walnuts grown on the slopes below. A few were shepherds.

But the power plant is out of service. And olive-oil and shoe-factories to the north, other major employers in the region, were destroyed.

Gholamreza Vefaili, 65, is perplexed as he leads a reporter and a photographer along the dark red dirt paths of the village, which climbs steeply up the side of the mountain.

"I don't know if I'll ever see it rebuilt," he says as he points out the rubble of what was once his tea house — one of two such meeting places in the village.

He said there were about 2,500 people in the village and that all but 100 were killed. Another man says the death toll was 1,500.

The school was destroyed, and the mosque — built since the 1979 revolution and the fanciest building in the village — was heavily damaged. But since the quake occurred in the middle of the night, no one was injured in those buildings.

Tabereh Amadi, 26, expects to come back one day, but she does not plan to wait here for any rebuilding.

She is taking her five children to Tehran 300 kilometres to the southeast to stay with her brother while her husband and father, both shepherds, remain here to tend sheep.

Amadi feels lucky that she and her family escaped harm. They were sleeping in one half of the house when they heard the other half collapse. They raced outside just as their side fell in.

Abbas Hakimi looked dejected and exhausted. But he kept trying to make order of what was left of his house and possessions.

Harzevil's parents and sister and her seven children were among the 19 members of his family who perished. It was the sister's eldest daughter, Faneh, who was to be the bride of Najafi.

Hakimi said he was not getting enough food or water. And he said he did not know how he would earn a living now to support his wife and two children because his taxicab was crushed where it was parked next to the mosque.

But when a friend with an injured back came and asked him, he carried a refrigerator strapped to his back down over the steep piles of rubble.

Israeli police beat photographer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) said Saturday that an Israeli plainclothes policeman beat one of its female photographers when she refused to hand over a film.

AFP bureau chief David Daure said the agency had complained to the police that Karen Lagerquist, a 25-year-old Canadian, was assaulted in Arab Jerusalem Friday.

The policeman demanded that Lagerquist hand over film she had taken of him chasing an Arab boy, AFP reporter Joe Strich told Reuters. She refused and asked him for identification.

"He became furious, hitting her with his fists and kicking her until she was on the floor. He took her to a van and tried to open her shirt. He started insulting her... and spat on her," Strich said.

A police spokesman said he had no information about any such incident. Lagerquist could not be reached for comment.

Strich said Lagerquist suffered head injuries in the attack.

Bush says he will continue Middle East peace policy

LONDON (USIA) — President George Bush said his administration is holding firm to its policy aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East and he called on both Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to help get the peace talks under way.

"We will do everything we can to encourage a discussion that will end up in peace," Bush said Friday at a news conference in London, where he attended a summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Other things. "There has got to be talks. Palestinians have to attend these talks. And so the ground rules are out there. We've got to go forward. We need more clarification and, very candidly, I'd like to think that Israel will now move forward again," he said.

Following are Near East-related excerpts from Bush's news conference:

Question: Did the topic of the Middle East come up during your discussions in the margins of the NATO summit? And can you comment on press reports which indicate you might be considering resuming your dialogue with the PLO, and what conditions would you attach to such a resumption?

Q: Now that you've had a chance to digest Prime Minister Shamir's letter to you of last week, how does that letter leave you feeling? Does it leave you feeling, as Secretary Baker said, that may be we should just leave him with the White House phone number, and to call when he's serious, or does it leave you feeling you're ready now to get involved in a prolonged negotiation with him, once again spending another few months or years to try to modify his position?

Answer: The discussion of the Middle East in the NATO meeting did not come up. It may have been discussed in the corridors but it was not a discussion in the meetings at all, and I didn't have discussions in a NATO context about the Middle East.

My position on the dialogue with the PLO is that one of the preconditions for discussion was a renunciation of terror. And I viewed the aborted attack on the shores of Israel by some Palestinian commandos as a terrorist act. So, we didn't cancel, we suspended the talks with the PLO. And I would like to think that Mr. Arafat could some way bring his council, not only to denounce the terror — but also to take some actions against the person that perpetrated it, and then I think we would certainly give rapid consideration to renewal of the dialogue. I happen to think the dialogue has been useful. I don't think Mr. Arafat

Responding to reporters' questions, Bush expressed the hope that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would denounce those who recently tried to launch an attack near a crowded Israeli beach and "take some action against the person that perpetrated it, and then I think we would certainly give rapid consideration to renewal of the dialogue."

"I happen to think the U.S.-PLO dialogue has been useful," even though Arafat and Shamir may not think so," Bush said.

Asked about Shamir's recent letter to him explaining his government's position on the peace process, Bush said, "It leaves me feeling we need further clarification... on some of the answers."

"We want to see the peace process go forward," Bush said, noting the "good talks" he had with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid in Washington and similar productive telephone conversations with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein.

"We're going to stay with the policy," he pledged, "in terms of (opposition to Israeli) settlements (in occupied territories) and

Pilgrims criticise Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Pilgrims and politicians from several Muslim countries have attacked Saudi Arabia over Monday's tunnel deaths at 1,400 were killed.

Turkish politicians and pilgrims from Malaysia and Bahrain criticised rescue operations, with some accusing the Saudi officials of negligence.

Turkey Saturday increased the estimate of its dead to 550 from 447. Indonesia had the highest number with 562.

Turkish State Minister Cemil Cicek was quoted by Anatolian news agency as saying he was dissatisfied with Saudi explanations of the tragedy.

Iran, which boycotted the annual Pilgrimage for the third year, said the incident showed the Saudis were unfit to administer Islam's holiest shrines.

Malaysia says that in addition to its own loss the dead included 11 from other countries travelling with the Malaysian pilgrims. At least one was from Australia.

"From your explanations I am not satisfied," the agency quoted Cicek as telling a top Saudi security official who said the

the way into the 600-metre-long tunnel.

Bahraini survivors said Friday the congestion was aggravated by a barricade at the exit of the tunnel, which Saudi officials said was holding some 50,000 pilgrims at the time.

In Kuala Lumpur, returning Malaysian pilgrims told reporters Saturday police could have reduced the high death toll by preventing pilgrims from pushing

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE	PROGRAMME TWO
15:30 Koran	17:55 Cartoons
15:40 Programme review	18:00 Documentary
15:45 Children programme	19:15 News in French
17:10 Football	19:30 News in Hebrew
18:00 News summary	19:45 Varieties programme
18:10 Local programme	20:00 News in Arabic
19:50 Programme review	21:00 World Cup final: West Germany vs. Argentina
20:30 News in Arabic	22:00 News summary in Arabic
21:00 World Cup final: West Germany vs. Argentina	

PROGRAMME TWO

17:55 Cartoons	19:15 News in French
18:00 Documentary	19:30 News in Hebrew
19:15 News in French	19:45 Varieties programme
19:30 News in Hebrew	20:00 News in Arabic
19:45 Varieties programme	21:00 World Cup final: West Germany vs. Argentina
20:00 News in Arabic	22:00 News summary in Arabic

PRAYER TIMES

05:58 Fajr	12:41 Dhuhr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr	13:50 Asr
16:21 Maghrib	19:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefkiah, Tel. 810740	Min./max. temp. 20 / 33
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	Aqaba 25 / 41
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Deserts 21 / 35
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	Jordan Valley 24 / 40
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623363, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817 and 654932	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate, causing dust at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN: Min./max. temp. 20 / 33

Aqaba 25 / 41

Deserts 21 / 35

Jordan Valley 24 / 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hassan Kanana 790286

Dr. Khalil Abdul Qader 793392

Dr. Muntaser Al Quraishi 792538

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

First pharmacy 622520

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Neirosh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IBRD:

Dr. Ziad Al A'raj (-)

Al Shamsi pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khamis Al Ja'bari (-)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 894002

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assist) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 875615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mallat, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664173/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Munster Hospital 667271/9

The Islamic, Abdali 663217/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IBRD:

Princeess Beama Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)214111

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Doha (RJ)	16:00 Doha, Mideast (GF)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)	17:15 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
10:30 Doha (RJ)	18:25 Frankfurt (LF)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)	20:05 Beirut (OE)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	22:45 Athens (OA)
10:55 Bahrain (RJ)	
11:00 Cairo (RJ)	
11:20 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
11:45 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)	
12:00 Paris (RJ)	
12:45 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)	
12:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	
13:05 Madrid, Rome (RJ)	
13:05 London (RJ)	
13:30 Aqaba (RJ)	

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:25 Larissa (CY)	16:15 Doha (RJ)
11:40 Rome (AZ)	17:15 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
12:40 Jeddah (SV)	18:25 Frankfurt (LF)
14:45 Cairo (MS)	20:05 Beirut (OE)
14:50 Tripoli (LN)	22:45 Athens (OA)
15:30 Doha (RJ)	

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

El Al puts off Finland transit flight

HELSINKI (R) — The Israeli airline El Al said Friday it would not start transit flights of Soviet Jews from Finland next week as planned, a Finnish national aviation board official said. El Al had given no reason, the official said. The flights were given the go-ahead by Finland. The airline was granted permission to arrange an initial four flights beginning next week to ferry Jewish migrants from the Soviet Union to Israel. "It is their intention to fly the week after next but there is a question mark," said aviation board official Elia Engdahl.

Denktash refuses to join talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash announced Friday he was quitting talks on reuniting the war-divided island to protest the Cypriot government's bid to join the European Community (EC). "Bicomunal talks died. I will neither sit at the negotiations table nor allow a lower-level representative to sit there," Denktash told reporters. He said the Turkish Cypriot side had told the Greek Cypriots that they did not represent the whole island and should not apply for full EC membership. The Cypriot government made its EC application Wednesday. Cyprus was divided in 1974, when the Turkish army invaded following an Athens-backed coup. The Turks seized the northern third of the island, which was proclaimed a Turkish Cypriot republic in 1983. Only Turkey recognises the sector as an independent state. Talks on a U.N. proposal for a two-zone federation have been deadlocked since February. The talks stalled when Denktash said his people had the right to self-determination and were entitled to equal rights with Greek Cypriots.

Cypriots show Famagusta treasures

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representatives of the government of Cyprus opened an exhibit Saturday of old treasures from the neighbourhood of Famagusta, a port city now held by Turkish Cypriots with the support of Turkish troops. Among the exhibits are Byzantine mosaics 1,400 years old from the Church of Panayia Kanakaria in the village of Lythrangomi. The catalog of the show says the mosaics were removed from the church, taken to Europe and bought back there by the Cyprus department of antiquities for return to the island. Other mosaics from the same church came into the hands of a dealer in Indiana. Their future is still in the hands of U.S. courts. The show includes finds that go back over 3,600 years: Statues, paintings, jewelry, pottery, swords coins and other objects. It will continue until Thursday at the Washington Hotel that is the site of the 30th biennial clergy-laity congress of the Greek Orthodox diocese. It has been seen earlier on the Greek island of Rhodes, and in London. No other U.S. stops have been announced. The exhibit has had invitations from West Germany, Sweden, the Soviet Union and other countries.

Rebels kill two in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Kurdish guerrillas killed a crewman on a freight train and shot dead a policeman in a separate ambush in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. It said the rebels also wounded three other crew on the train when it halted at a station late Thursday. Early on Friday rebels fired on a police vehicle in Cizre, near the Syrian border, killing one officer and wounding three. A passing civilian was also hurt. Guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) have been fighting for independence in the region since mid-1984. Nearly 2,500 people have been killed.

PCC may meet this month

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is trying to arrange a meeting of its 108-member Palestine Central Council (PCC) for later this month, probably in Baghdad, PLO officials said Friday. The officials said no firm date had been set but it would definitely take place after a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis July 16 and probably in the third week of July. The council, which includes representatives of all the groups and mass organisations which make up the PLO, should meet twice a year but it has not met since October, also in Baghdad. The council would discuss the course of the intifada, how to deal with the new Israeli government, the mass influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and the U.S. decision to suspend talks with the PLO. It will also prepare for the next session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the movement's parliament-in-exile and highest authority. PLO officials say the PNC should meet before the end of the year to review the PLO's progress since the last PNC, in Algiers in November 1988, took the historic decision to proclaim a Palestinian state.

Somali guards kill dozens at football match

MOGADISHU (R) — Bodyguards protecting Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre killed dozens of people when they fired indiscriminately into an angry crowd at a football match on Friday, witnesses said Saturday. Spectators began booing and shouting anti-government slogans after Barre finished a short speech opening a regional football tournament and his red beret bodyguards opened fire, they said. A statement issued by Media police hospital said seven people died and 18 were injured. But witnesses told Reuters dozens had been killed and hundreds injured. A government statement broadcast on Somali radio said security forces fired in the air to quell a disturbance caused by overcrowding in the stadium. Barre, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1969, last month detained scores of critics who called on him to resign. The government has been fighting northern rebels seeking to topple Barre since 1981.

MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in Jds per kg

Apples	550 / 550
Apricots	550 / 550
Bananas	550 / 450
Bananas (Mekansu)	550 / 400
Beans	400 / 300
Cabbage	130 / 90
Carrots	200 / 150
Cauliflower	200 / 150
Corn	150 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 40
Cucumbers (small)	70 / 120
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	150 / 100
Garlic	1100 / 900
Oranges	300 / 200
Lemon	500 / 400
Milk	80 / 40
Marrow (large)	120 / 80
Marrow (small)	120 / 80
Onion (dry)	200 / 150
Onion	350 / 300
Peas	550 / 450
Pepper (big)	200 / 120
Pepper (small)	200 / 120
Potato	200 / 120
Sage	550 / 500
Sweet melon	120 / 80
Tomatoes	120 / 80
Watermelon	100 / 50

Jordanian, Palestinian pilgrims expected back within two days

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Muslims who performed this year's pilgrimage to Mecca began arriving home Saturday and all the pilgrims are expected to arrive back within the coming two days, according to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which organises the trip for pilgrims every year.

The ministry's acting Secretary-General Yahya Kokash said that some of the pilgrims from Palestinian territories occupied since 1948 arrived in Maan and the rest are expected Saturday evening.

All the Palestinian pilgrims will be hosted at the Ghor Nimrein pilgrims camp prepared by the Ministry of Awqaf in the central Jordan Valley region or will stay with relatives and friends for some time before making the trip back across the River Jordan to occupied Palestine, Kokash said. He said that these pilgrims total 3,500.

The 1,700 pilgrims from the Gaza Strip will all be in Jordan in the coming few days and the two will be crossing the river to go back home soon afterwards, Kokash said.

Kokash said that all the pilgrims from occupied Palestine, the Gaza Strip and Jordan are well. Two pilgrims were killed and four were injured in a stampede inside a pedestrian tunnel near the Holy City of Mecca during last week's pilgrimage.

The ministry did not release the number of Jordanian pilgrims who performed this year's pilgrimage, but Jordan is allowed only up to 15,000 annually.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Ali Al Fagir, who headed Jordan's official mission to the pilgrimage this year is now attending an Islamic conference in Mecca along with ministers from Islamic nations.

Death, injury toll high during Eid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty one citizens were killed and 222 were injured during the six-day Eid Al Adha holiday in Amman and other towns and villages, compared to nine people killed and 1,045 injured during Eid Al Fitr feast last April.

Those killed or injured were victims of road accidents, fires, murders and food poisoning, according to the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Civil Defence Department as quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday.

One of the dead was a 16 year old youth, Ibrahim Uleiman from Jerash, who was said to have been tampering with a gun which went off killing him instantly. There were at least two murders and one case of suicide among the dead.

The injured included numerous children who sustained injuries through falls from high places or wounded by stray bullets at weddings in different regions of the country, according to the report.

The report said that many of the injured and victims of food poisoning were being treated at hospitals and health centres which remained in operation during the past holiday.

During Eid Al Fitr holiday, at the end of April, a total of 33 vehicles were reported by the police to have been damaged or destroyed in road accidents and Al Bashir Hospital in Amman alone reported that 335 citizens had been admitted for treatment.

Population experts to meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Regional experts on population and human resources planning in the Arab World will meet here Sunday to discuss emigration, social development, population policies and the role of women in development.

The meeting, organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is attended by delegates from seven Arab countries and experts from ILO and the U.N. fund for population activities as well as the U.N. Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia.

Ministry of Labour's Secretary-General Saleh Al Khasawneh said that the participants in the three-day meeting will review working papers dealing with the population issues and development in the Arab countries and future prospects of higher education, vocational training and regional cooperation in manpower development.

Misguided concepts, lack of education — cause for crime

By Saeeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Statistics indicate that most murders committed in Jordan in the past years were related to family conflicts: either to "protect the family honour" (the reputation of a woman in the family) or to settle personal disputes among family members. Other killings relate to misguided religious beliefs, according to a research paper by the National Committee for Combating Crime presented recently at a conference on "crime and society".

Murders committed in the name of "family honour" rose to 34.5 per cent of all killings in 1985 from 22 per cent from 1977, according to the paper. The motives behind such murders, according to the paper, reflect the deterioration of the social infrastructure and the disintegration of family ties as well as the influence of foreign cultures on the Jordanian society, affecting the young generation's thoughts and convictions.

According to the report, youth under 18 years of age had committed 58.9 per cent of all killings in Jordan between 1978 and 1985. This phenomena is attributed to the parental influence on the children, leading them to commit crimes especially related to revenge or honour. Parents use their children, explains the paper, because at this age they lack experience and are easily driven by their emotions.

Crimes of honour, carried out by minors, are principally traced back to a number of reasons as the research paper concluded. First of all these murders are seen as an "outstanding accomplishment" by the family as well as the society. This prevalent conviction is deeply engrained by the parents in their children's minds influencing their behaviour.

Parents also take advantage of the fact that minors do not receive the same punishment as adults do, according to the research paper. Minor convicts are often sent to a rehabilitation centre for a number of years where they continue their education and learn a profession. Furthermore, these minors will not even have a police record.

Crimes of honour are not only linked to parental influence on children, but also to poor education, the paper argues. It points out that 62.8 of those found guilty of murder between 1978 and 1985 in Jordan had education at the preparatory level or below. This indicates that this category is not aware of the dangers of such acts, since the society's prevalent traditions and conventions encourage such acts, say the researchers.

The paper stresses the fact that education is the best possible weapon to eliminate crimes in the society, because the educated one is supposed to be more rational and more aware of the dangerous consequences of such acts on him and on the society.

Poor education is also seen as another contributing factor to killings attributed to familial disputes. 86.4 per cent of murder convicts in Jordan during the same period had not reached their preparatory level.

The paper argues that parents drive their children to commit such murders especially when there are some revengeful goals

British university bestows doctorate on Crown Prince

LONDON (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has received an honorary doctorate degree in civil law from Durham University in the United Kingdom in recognition of his efforts to promote Jordan's socio-economic development.

The degree was conferred on Prince Hassan at a ceremony held at the university in north England on July 5.

Addressing the ceremony, a senior university official paid tribute to Prince Hassan for his role in support of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish peace and security in the Middle East region.

"To understand the achievement of King Hussein and the Crown Prince, we have to take into account the extraordinary circumstances of their country and the region, the instability of some countries in the Middle East, of which Lebanon is the most tragic example, and the ever present problem of the Palestinian question," said the official.

"The Crown Prince has addressed some of these problems in his books, notably 'Palestinian Self-Determination' (1981) and 'Search for Peace' (1984)," the official added.



He said: "Amid the inter-state rivalries and confusions of the Middle East, the Crown Prince has always spoken for peace, moderation and justice. He writes with feeling about recent years and what he calls 'the triumph of extremist politics'. In Jordan he has been a force of moderation and progress. He has been active in the economic, cultural and technological development of Jordan, playing a leading part in preparing a three-

year development plan and later a five-year plan, and was largely responsible for the establishment of the Royal Scientific Society which functions as a research centre. He also set up the Jordan Valley Authority to assist the economic development of the region and has led delegations to London, Tokyo and Washington to discuss Jordan's economic development.

"Prince Hassan pioneered the foundation of the Arab Thought Forum which works for better relations between Arab states and has been concerned to set up a dialogue between Muslims and Christians.

"Crown Prince Hassan was educated in England at Harrow school and Christ Church Oxford where he read oriental studies, Arabic and Hebrew."

Every year the University of Durham awards honorary degrees for work of distinction in a variety of fields. Some go to leading academics or people in public life in Britain or overseas. Others are conferred on men and women in the domain of arts, industry and commerce or those who have rendered exceptional service to the local community or to the university itself.

Former premier remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — Last Tuesday marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, former prime minister, who died of a heart attack at the age of 41 and was mourned by the Royal Family and the nation at large.

The nation mourned for seven days the late Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf who passed away less than seven months after assuming the post of prime minister for the first time in Jordan after serving in several prominent posts here and abroad.

Abdul Hamid Sharaf who led a 21-member Cabinet set the tone for the government's policies soon after being designated for the post by His Majesty King Hussein.

"Economic growth must be balanced with social development and the country must concentrate efforts on becoming more productive," Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf had said upon assuming the post.

Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf had vowed to introduce a new taxation system "to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth." He particularly attacked corruption in civil service and Jordan's consuming society.

The late prime minister stressed the importance of "redirecting the priorities of education — away from the theoretical and towards the type of education more suited to the needs of national development."

Born in Baghdad in 1939, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf received his higher education at the American University of Beirut (AUB) graduating in 1959 with a bachelor degree in philosophy.

Three years later he received a masters degree from the same university in international relations. He worked at the Foreign Ministry and the Royal Court before becoming minister of culture in 1965.

He later served as ambassador to the United States and Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations before returning to become chief of the Royal Court.

Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf is survived by his wife, Laila Sharaf, who is member of the Upper House of Parliament, and two sons.

On the anniversary of Abdul Hamid Sharaf's death delegations from various governments visited his home in Amman to pay their respects.



Abdul Hamid Sharaf (1939-1980)



LATE KING REMEMBERED: The late King Talal Ben Abdullah was remembered Saturday on the 18th anniversary of his death. His son, His Majesty King Hussein, Royal Princes and members of the Royal Family visited the late King's tomb where they recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths. The tomb was also visited by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Cabinet members, members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Royal Court officials, chief Islamic justice, Muslim scholars, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, senior army officers and the commander and senior officers of the King Talal Brigade. The late King Talal who was born in Mecca in 1909 assumed his constitutional powers on Sept. 6, 1951 only to abdicate the throne on August 11, 1952 for his son, King Hussein.

Seville conference to tackle Arab, Latin American ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will be among world prominent personalities taking part in a three-day Arab-Iberian-Latin American conference which opens Monday in the Spanish city of Seville. The conference will discuss cultural relations and cooperation in cultural and political fields.

The conference, organised by the Club of Rome in observance of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, aims to promote cultural ties between the Arab World and the Latin American nations.

Prince Hassan has prepared two working papers for the conference in cooperation with former president of Colombia Belisario Betancor.

Other working papers to be submitted by Latin Americans and Arabs cover cultural cooperation between the Arab World and Latin American nations, common goals and challenges and areas for mutual cooperation.

The papers also cover cooperation in technology, science and socio-economic development, means of overcoming the problem of indebtedness, developing human and natural resources and participation of Arab and Latin American countries in the 1992 exposition. Other issues covered by the papers are political and cultural dialogues between Latin America and the Arab World in addition to current world issues.

Several members of the Club of Rome and the Arab Thought Forum will take part in the discussions to tackle cultural, economic and political issues.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, who left for Spain Saturday, is among Jordanian personalities attending. Also taking part is former minister Jawad Anani, Prince Hassan's advisor Mazen Armouti and Dr. Hilmi Nammar, the secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The Arab World is represented by prominent personalities from political, financial and economic fields.

House endorses law

(Continued from page 1)

Dughmi protested that years of experience are "no proof of lawyers' competence."

Deputy Mansour Murad (Amman) added that individuals seeking legal counsel "should be free to choose their representatives."

At this point the article was put to vote and a controversy followed over the method of counting votes.

Deputy Faris Nabulsi suggested that deputies should vote by standing "as prescribed in the Constitution." Speaker Suleiman Arar concurred and the suggestion was received enthusiastically. Nabulsi later said: "This was one of the most important decisions that we took."

At the beginning of the session the deputies observed a one-minute silence in mourning the victims of last week's tunnel stampede in Mecca which claimed over 1,400 lives. The House decided to cable sympathy to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

At the end of the session, Deputy Abdul Karim Elawi from the Islamic bloc pleaded to the House to call on people to abandon swimming pools because "many people cannot find drinking water." Elawi's call, however, fell on deaf ears. Deputies had already started to leave the House.

Hostage to be freed

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanese, held at a detention camp in South Lebanon.

The inmates are suspected guerrillas involved in an underground warfare against Israeli troops and allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army who control a border strip in South Lebanon.

Israel has said it would consider freeing the inmates under a deal which would also include releasing three Israeli servicemen who disappeared in military operations in South Lebanon. The Israelis are held by Shi'ite factions.

Tremor jolts Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Initially reported Rudbar struck by a new "earthquake." But in later dispatches, IRNA said was an aftershock. More than 400 such tremors have shaken Gilan province since the June 21 killer quake.

IRNA said two people were injured in Rudbar Friday night. It said they were immediately taken to hospital, presumably one of the makeshift relief clinics set up in the city that was flattened by the initial earthquake.

IRNA added that the latest aftershock caused landslides in the mountainous region, blocking two main roads — one linking Rudbar with Rasht, 50 kilometres to the north, and another linking the city with southern villages.

Rescue teams worked for four hours during the night until they were able to reopen the roads, IRNA said.

Gilan and Zanjan, another agricultural province its south, bore the brunt of the catastrophic quake which killed 40,000 people, injured about 60,000 and left half a million survivors homeless.

Rudbar, on the border of the two provinces, was the scene of some of the worst tragedies. Ab-

out 10,000 of its original 100,000 inhabitants were killed.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

Each increase of one number represents a 10-fold increase in a quake's power. A quake of magnitude 7 is capable of widespread, heavy damage, and a quake of magnitude 6 can cause severe damage.

Iranian Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri said this week that it would be overwhelmingly difficult to rebuild the earthquake-stricken region.

The interior minister said Iran needed two repair roads, water systems and electrical service, as well as to replace buildings. The cost just to repair residences and the water and electrical systems will be \$1 billion, he said.

He said 90,000 residences had been damaged in the quake. Most of them were made of mud brick or kiln-dried brick with little reinforcement in the walls.

He said Iran had two months to build shelter before the rainy season begins in September.

Iran also has demanded that the Western government provide information on the fate of four Iranians who were kidnapped in 1982 by a right-wing Lebanese militia in north Lebanon.

The Iranians are: Ahmad Motavasselian, commander of a Revolutionary Guards contingent based in east Lebanon, Charge D'affaires Mohsen Musavi, Khassam Akhavan, a correspondent for IRNA, and their driver, Mohammad Taghi Rastegar, who also has a Lebanese passport.

Christian leader Samir Geagea has said that when he seized command of the Lebanese Forces militia in 1985, he found no trace of the Iranians. He blamed their murder on his rival predecessor Elie Hobeika.

But Iranian officials have in recent weeks insisted that they have word that the Iranians are still alive.

The longest-held Western captive is American journalist Terry Anderson, 42.

Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jerash Festival treated in thesis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian political science student in the United States has submitted a thesis on the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts to acquire a masters degree. Raha Bataineh from Jordan submitted the thesis to one of New York's universities and that a debate of the thesis will take place in September. The thesis features the festival since its start in 1981 and presents a historical and cultural outline of the civilisations in Jordan. The thesis also includes proposals for improvements to be introduced to the festival's activities.

Bonn honours Jordanian ambassador

BONN (Petra) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker Saturday received Jordan's Ambassador to West Germany Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf on the occasion of the end of the ambassador's tour of duty. Weizsaecker wished Sharaf success and lauded the good relations between Jordan and West Germany. Weizsaecker has previously conferred on Sharaf a high national medal of honour in appreciation of his work in West Germany.

Firms invited to attend Damascus fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Chamber of Industry has asked all Jordanian industrial institutions willing to take part in the Damascus international fair, to be opened August 28, to register at the chamber. All necessary information concerning reservation and transfer of goods and commodities to the Syrian capital will be supplied by the Amman Chamber of Industry.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition entitled "Salute: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.

Tirana to allow asylum

(Continued from page 1)

country under the supervision of embassy personnel.

A special central committee meeting to deal with the recent disorder continued into its third day Saturday.

Communist leader Ramiz Alia Friday criticised the thousands of asylum seekers and told the central committee that the party would not give up power as communists had done elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"The aims and actions of these destructive, anti-democratic and anti-Albanian forces go too far," Alia said in remarks carried by ATA. "We may be poor, undoubtedly we have difficulties and shortages, but the foreigner has never solved our troubles."

Meanwhile, the embassies offering shelter to asylum seekers said sanitary conditions were nearly intolerable.

The number of refugees in the West Germany embassy doubled to 2,000 overnight, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was consulting with his French and Italian counterparts on a resolution to the crisis, the Foreign Ministry in Bonn said Saturday.

ADN said there were 1,500 Albanians in the Italian embassy and 500 in the French mission.

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By Dr. Fahed Faneek

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Unemployment — a labour union view

In the current discussions about the unemployment problem in Jordan, the memorandum of the Central Committee of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) presented to the Lower House of Parliament did not capture the attention of writers and commentators in the press. The attention focused on the detailed statement made by the minister of labour, and the speeches delivered by House members, especially those who represent parliamentary blocs and different schools of political thought.

The labour union memorandum started by pointing out that unemployment was always one of the permanent features of the Jordanian labour market. In the past, the memorandum said, the problem was partially solved through

the emigration of our surplus labour force abroad especially in the Arab oil-producing countries. This trend may have been true, but not useful. It may be true to claim that unemployment is our unavoidable fate, and that the factors that may help in alleviating the problem are external factors such as the restoration of oil prosperity in the Gulf States but this is of course beyond our control.

The memorandum of the labour union then dwelled on the open door policy in Jordanian labourers since 1974. The purpose of that policy, the union theorized, was to secure an extra supply of labourers to prevent wages from rising, or at least to slow their possible increase. The Jordanian economy may have benefited from this policy by curbing inflation,

albeit at the expense of the working class, and by freeing the Jordanian skilled labour and qualified personnel to seek jobs in the Gulf at much higher salaries, while replacing them domestically by cheap incoming labourers. Perhaps the remittances of the Jordanian expatriates in foreign currency, were the most favourable result of this policy, which now has outlived its usefulness. There is no justification to continue the open door policy of imported labour when the unemployed Jordanians exceed one hundred thousand or 16 per cent of the whole labour force in the country.

The memorandum also pointed to the flood of imported goods which meant the importation of foreign labour contents. It was only natural to expect tailors, for

instance, to disappear when we import ready made clothes, because we are creating new jobs but in the countries which export clothes to us. The devaluation of the Jordanian Dinar in 1988/1989 was instrumental in reducing this distortion, as foreign imports declined and exports picked up considerably. This development has created new jobs locally, which in turn prevented unemployment from deteriorating beyond the current level.

The same concept applied to awarding construction projects to foreign contractors. Foreign companies tended to buy less domestic materials and hire less local labour and engineers.

Up to this point the labour union has put its finger on two of the major factors that contributed to

unemployment, but which could still be handled if we have the will. However, the labour union did not stop there. It took the opportunity to put forward other views which have no direct bearing on the subject of unemployment.

The memorandum mentioned unfair dismissal of labourers, and the failure to adopt a minimum wage system, either on sectoral basis or across the board. The writer takes issue with both points. Unfair dismissal of workers and employees is bad, but it does not increase unemployment. It simply shifts the job from one person who is underemployed by the employer, to another person.

As for minimum wage, it is well established that such a step would result in less demand on manpower, and an increase in unemployment.

Such a policy will definitely hurt those with little or no experience, those who are too young or too old, and those who suffer from any handicaps.

As it is, employers are currently tempted to employ such groups for certain jobs because they are less costly to employ, but once the pay difference between the weak and the strong job applicants disappears, only the strong and experienced may find jobs.

The labour union did well in contributing its views to the decision makers. In doing so, the union asserted its presence and participated in the decision making process, at least when it comes to a problem very much related to the working class, it represents such as the problem of unemployment.

Gorbachev needs Western support

THE current Communist Party congress in Moscow may make or break Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, whose reformist policies are under attack from extremists from both sides of the political spectrum. Gorbachev is fighting for his political life and all that goes with it. If his rivals and enemies succeed in outflanking him during the ongoing Moscow meetings, the first casualty could be German reunification on which much hope has been pinned as a symbol of the beginning of an entirely new era in world history. With hundreds of thousands of Soviet troops still stationed on the eastern side of the now-defunct Berlin Wall, there is no way the German people would be able to exercise their right to self-determination and vote in December for unity without cooperation from Moscow. The success or failure of Gorbachev will have major repercussions across the entire globe. That is why the leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) need to follow up on their decision, reached in this week's summit in London, with solid actions that can help the man and the policies that gave them more breathing space and a chance of a lifetime to eliminate nuclear warfare from the face of the earth. Thus far, the Soviet leader and his policies were left to stew in their own juice instead of the Western leaders getting together to map out a strategy to extend a helping hand to a country that is going through the ordeal of transformation from dictatorship to democracy. Democracy must succeed in the Soviet Union and it is therefore incumbent upon NATO to continue to strive for a supportive stance vis-a-vis Moscow. Otherwise Gorbachev's perestroika would be put into jeopardy from which it may not recover.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for the revival of the Middle East international peace conference was discussed by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said that his call came as a reminder to all those concerned with the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace that partial and marginal solutions of side problems related to the Arab-Israeli conflict can by no means bring about peace. The paper described the United States call for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue the Baker and Shamir plans as side issues which the American-Israeli alliance had utilised to enable Israel to gain further time and avoid an international conference that can provide the right formula for a lasting peace. The paper said that De Cuellar's call for convening an international conference is a reminder to the European Community and the NATO alliance that there can be no alternative to a U.N.-sponsored peace in the region, and that peace can come through the recognition of Palestinian people's rights in Palestine and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. It said that world peace can not be partial but total; and that world leaders now trying to issue a declaration for a global peace should realise that the Middle East which is part of the globe also ought to enjoy durable stability and peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the question of water shortage and the lack of a fair water distribution programme. Tareq Masmaweh accuses the water authority of supplying sufficient quantities of water to the rich districts whose residents own several tanks to store water for weeks, and of pumping only little water to the poor districts whose residents can only afford to have one cubic metre water tanks sufficient for three days. The writer also notes that only certain parts of Amman and neighbouring areas get sufficient water supplies for domestic use and for watering gardens and that the poor people are forced to buy their water from the roving water tank trucks to meet their daily needs. He also criticises the government for seeking to meet the needs of city dwellers of meat and bread to ensure their support in the decision-making process, and neglecting the farmers' needs of water supplies. The writer calls for a fair solution and a reconsideration of the present water distribution programme.

Al Dustour daily expressed optimism over steps being taken by Iran and Iraq to establish normal relations and end the conflict in the Gulf. The paper said that the eight year long war in the Gulf brought about devastation and poverty; and it is time for both sides to think about ways to reestablish peace, security and stability to their region. The direct meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers transmit very optimistic and positive indications that the two sides are seriously working towards a lasting peace, said the paper. What is more important, it added, is the fact that the two ministers dedicated their effort to solving the most important and chronic issues, and not the side questions upon instructions from their leaders who had exchanged messages of good will and desire to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. The paper said that the opening of direct negotiations between Iran and Iraq is a success for the United Nations which had proved its power to solve regional conflicts elsewhere in the world.

Complete text of the London NATO declaration

LONDON (R) — Following is the complete text of the London declaration on a transformed North Atlantic alliance issued after NATO's two-day summit meeting which ended on Friday:

1. Europe has entered a new promising era. Central and Eastern Europe is liberating itself. The Soviet Union has embarked on the long journey toward a free society. The walls that once confined people and ideas are collapsing. Europeans are determining their own destiny. They are choosing freedom. They are choosing economic liberty. They are choosing peace. They are choosing a Europe whole and free. As a consequence, this alliance must and will adapt.

2. The North Atlantic alliance has been the most successful defensive alliance in history. As our alliance enters its fifth decade and looks ahead to a new century, it must continue to provide for the common defence. This alliance has done much to bring about the new Europe. No one, however, can be certain of the future. We need to keep standing together, to extend the long peace we have enjoyed these past four decades. Yet our alliance must be even more an agent of change. It can help build the structures of a more united continent, supporting security and stability with the strength of our shared faith in democracy, the rights of the individual, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. We reaffirm that security and stability do not lie solely in the military dimension, and we intend to enhance the political component of our alliance as provided for by article 2 of our treaty.

3. The unification of Germany means that the division of Europe is also being overcome. A united Germany in the Atlantic alliance of free democracies and part of the growing political and economic integration of the European community will be an indispensable factor of stability, which is needed in the heart of Europe. The move within the European community towards political union, including the development of a European identity in the domain of security, will also contribute to Atlantic solidarity and to the establishment of a just and lasting order of peace throughout the whole of Europe.

4. We recognise that, in the new Europe, the security of every state is inseparably linked to the security of its neighbours. NATO must become an institution where Europeans, Canadians and Americans work together not only for the common defence, but to build new partnerships with all the nations of Europe. The Atlantic community must reach out to the countries of the East which were our adversaries in the cold war, and extend to them the hand of friendship.

5. We will remain a defensive alliance and will continue to defend all the territory of all of our members. We have no aggressive intentions and we commit ourselves to the peaceful resolution of all disputes. We will never, in any circumstances, be the first to use force.

6. The member states of the North Atlantic alliance propose to the member states of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation a joint declaration in which we solemnly state that we are no longer adversaries and reaffirm our intention to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or from acting in any other manner inconsistent with

the purposes and principles of the United Nations charter and with the CSCE final act. We invite all other CSCE member states to join us in this commitment to non-aggression.

7. In that spirit, and to reflect the changing political role of the alliance, we today invited President Gorbachev on behalf of the Soviet Union, and representatives of the other Central and Eastern European countries to come to Brussels and address the North Atlantic council. We today also invite the governments of the union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Hungarian Republic, the Republic of Poland, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to come to NATO, not just to visit, but to establish regular diplomatic liaison with NATO. This will make it possible for us to share with them our thinking and deliberations in this historic period of change.

8. Our alliance will do its share to overcome the legacy of decades of suspicion. We are ready to intensify military contacts, including those of NATO military commanders, with Moscow and other Central and Eastern European capitals.

9. We welcome the invitation to NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner to visit Moscow and meet with Soviet leaders.

10. Military leaders from throughout Europe gathered earlier this year in Vienna to talk about their forces and doctrine. NATO proposes another such meeting this autumn to promote common understanding. We intend to establish an entirely different quality of openness in Europe, including an agreement on "open skies."

11. The significant presence of North American conventional and U.S. nuclear forces in Europe demonstrates the underlying political compact that binds North America's fate to Europe's democracies. But, as Europe changes, we must profoundly alter the way we think about defence.

12. To reduce our military requirements, sound arms control agreements are essential. That is why we put the highest priority on completing this year the first treaty to reduce and limit Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFAE) along with the completion of a meaningful CSBM package. These talks should remain in continuous session until the work is done. Yet we hope to go further. We propose that, once a CFE treaty is signed, follow-on talks should begin with the same membership and mandate, with the goal of building on the current agreement with additional measures, including measures to limit manpower in Europe. With this goal in mind, a commitment will be given at the time of signature of the CFE treaty concerning the manpower levels of a unified Germany.

13. Our objective will be to conclude the negotiations on the follow-on to CFE and CSBMs as soon as possible and looking to the follow-up meeting of the CSCE to be held in Helsinki in 1992. We will seek through new conventional arms control negotiations, within the CSCE framework, further far-reaching measures in the 1990s to limit the offensive capability of conventional armed forces in Europe, so as to prevent any nation from maintaining disproportionate military power on the continent. NATO's high level task force will formulate a

detailed position for these follow-on conventional arms control talks. We will make provisions as needed for different regions and to ensure that no one's security is harmed at any stage. Furthermore, we will continue to explore broader arms control and confidence-building opportunities. This is an ambitious agenda, but it matches our goal: enduring peace in Europe.

14. As Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe and a treaty limiting conventional armed forces is implemented, the alliance's integrated force structure and its strategy will change fundamentally to include the following elements:

— NATO will field smaller and restructured active forces. These forces will be highly mobile and versatile so that allied leaders will have maximum flexibility in deciding how to respond to a crisis. It will rely increasingly on multinational corps made up of national units.

— NATO will scale back the readiness of its active units, reducing training requirements and the number of exercises.

— NATO will rely more heavily on the ability to build up larger forces if and when they might be needed.

15. To keep the peace, the alliance must maintain for the foreseeable future an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces, based in Europe, and kept up to date where necessary. But, as a defensive alliance, NATO has always stressed that none of its weapons will ever be used except in self-defence and that we seek the lowest and most stable level of nuclear forces needed to secure the prevention of war.

16. The political and military changes in Europe, and the

prospects of further changes, now allow the allies concerned to go further. They will thus modify the size and adapt the tasks of their nuclear deterrent forces. They have concluded that, as a result of the new political and military conditions in Europe, there will be a significantly reduced role for sub-strategic nuclear systems of the shortest range. They have decided specifically that, once negotiations begin on short-range nuclear forces, the alliance will propose, in return for reciprocal action by the Soviet Union, the elimination of all its nuclear artillery shells from Europe.

17. New negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction of short-range nuclear forces should begin shortly after a CFE agreement is signed. The allies concerned will develop an arms control framework for these negotiations which takes into account our requirements for far fewer nuclear weapons, and the diminished need for sub-strategic nuclear systems of the shortest range.

18. Finally, with the total withdrawal of Soviet stationed forces and the implementation of a CFE agreement, the allies can reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons. These will continue to fulfil an essential role in the overall strategy of the alliance to prevent war by ensuring that there are no circumstances in which nuclear retaliation in response to military action might be discounted. However, in the transformed Europe, they will be able to adopt a new NATO strategy making nuclear forces truly weapons of last resort.

19. We approve the mandate given in turnberry to the North Atlantic council in permanent session to oversee the ongoing

work on the adaptation of the alliance to the new circumstances. It should report its conclusions as soon as possible.

20. In the context of these revised plans for defence and arms control, and with the advice of NATO military authorities and all member states concerned, NATO will prepare a new allied military strategy moving away from "forward defence" where appropriate, towards a redefined forward presence and modifying "flexible response" to reflect a reduced reliance on nuclear weapons.

In that connection, NATO will elaborate new force plans consistent with the revolutionary changes in Europe. NATO will also provide a forum for allied consultations on short-range nuclear forces.

21. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) should become more prominent in Europe's future, bringing together the countries of Europe and North America. We support a CSCE summit later this year in Paris which would include the signature of a CFE agreement and would set new standards for the establishment, and preservation, of free societies. It should endorse, inter alia:

— CSCE principles on the right to free and fair elections

— CSCE commitments to respect and uphold the rule of law

— CSCE guidelines for enhancing economic cooperation, based on the development of free and competitive market economies; and

— CSCE cooperation on environmental protection.

22. We further propose that the CSCE summit in Paris de-

side how the CSCE can be institutionalised to provide a forum for wider political dialogue in a more united Europe. We recommend that CSCE governments establish:

— A programme for regular consultations among member governments at the heads of state and government or ministerial level, at least once each year, with other periodic meetings of officials to prepare for and follow-up on these consultations.

— A schedule of CSCE review conferences once every two years to assess progress toward a Europe whole and free.

— A small CSCE secretariat to coordinate these meetings and conferences.

— A CSCE mechanism to monitor elections in all the CSCE countries, on the basis of the Copenhagen Document.

— A CSCE centre for the prevention of conflict that might serve as a forum for exchanges of military information, discussion of unusual military activities, and the conciliation of disputes involving CSCE member states.

— A CSCE parliamentary body, whose assembly of Europe, to be based on the existing parliamentary assembly of the council of Europe, in Strasbourg, and include representatives of all CSCE member states.

The sites of these new institutions should reflect the fact that the newly democratic countries of Central and Eastern Europe form part of the political structures of the new Europe.

23. Today, our alliance begins a major transformation. Working with all the countries of Europe, we are determined to create enduring peace on this continent.

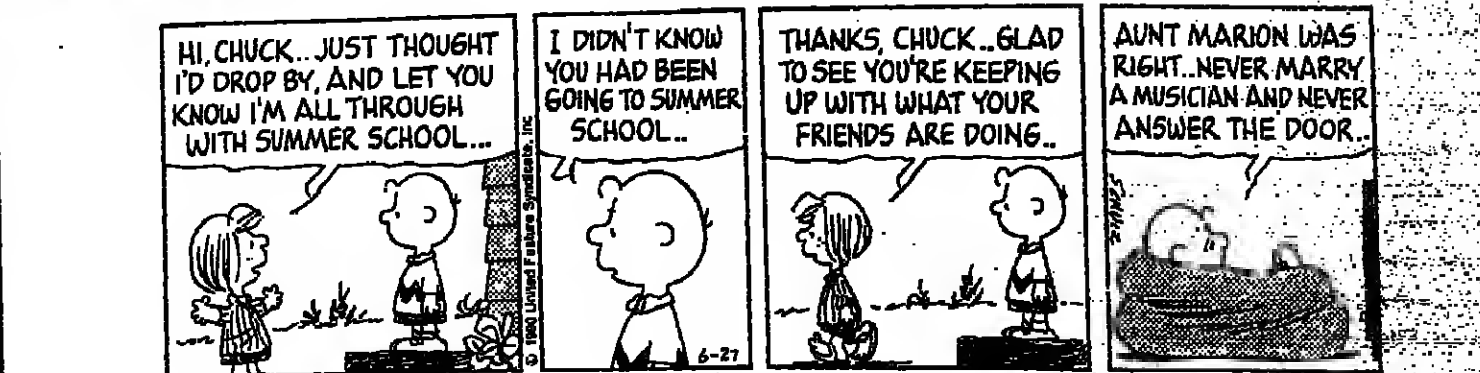
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Corruption on both sides of the border

By Mohammed Aftab
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Politics and corruption go together in much of the world. In Pakistan, they are like hand and glove. Corruption has been brought into the open by a newly free press and a shift toward democracy after more than a decade of military rule.

Accusations of questionable deals and financial wrongdoing turn up almost daily in newspapers, at news conferences and in speeches.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is not immune.

"The opposition has launched a witch-hunt against members of my government and members of my family, and their behaviour is nothing short of criminal," she said in a recent interview. "There is a well-laid conspiracy to hurl one false charge after another, to manipulate the media."

"They are making baseless charges to discredit democracy. We have three courts in our country and people may go to these courts if they have anything."

Few Pakistanis take such accusations to the courts, which act slowly and inflict little, if any, punishment.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is one of the opposition's main targets.

"I am the soft belly," he said. "You bit me and you hit her."

Zardari and Ms. Bhutto were married in 1987 while she still led the opposition to Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, the late military president.

"If an individual in her government is accused of being corrupt, the prime minister can get rid of him," he said. "If they say, the husband of the prime minister is corrupt, it echoes throughout the world. The larger the person, the louder the noise."

Ms. Bhutto's two main rivals in parliament have filed a lawsuit accusing Zardari of trying to take over 287 acres of Islamabad's national park to build a luxury hotel and sports complex in the name of a company based in London.

One of them, Syedda Abida Hussain, said, "the only person listed as its director in London is Ms. Bhutto's cousin."

The government accuses its political opponents of obtaining millions of dollars worth of bank loans during the 11 years Zia was

in office, then writing them off or repaying them on unusually favourable terms.

Twenty opposition figures, including leaders Nawaz Sharif and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, are under government investigation for alleged wrongdoing.

Sharif, chief minister of Punjab province, is accused of obtaining \$90 million in loans on special terms, with little collateral. He denies it.

"I offer myself to be investigated by a panel of supreme court judges, but along with me, Ms. Bhutto and all politicians under suspicion should also be investigated for corruption," said Jatoi, leader of combined opposition parties in the national assembly.

The opposition accuses senior ministers of selling rice abroad for personal profit, financing a textile mill with a politically influenced loan and borrowing \$45 million without collateral to build a cement factory.

Faisal Saleh Hayat, commerce minister and a close Bhutto aide, responded: "aren't we the citizens of Pakistan? Why shouldn't we invest?"

When the government put forth its budget in June, opposition members walked out of parliament because Ehsanul Haq Piracha, the deputy finance minister, was allowed to present it.

Piracha was accused of granting

the licence for the new stock exchange in Islamabad to his relatives, and court ruled he committed "a clear act of favoritism and nepotism." He denies wrongdoing and has taken the case to the supreme court.

There are reports of civilian bureaucrats making money on the purchase of sugar, jetliners and computers, the sale of old aircraft, and contracts for construction and communications projects.

"You name it, we have it," said a ranking official investigating corruption. "If the government is sincere in prosecuting the corrupt, we can bring up so many cases it will tire the courts."

Pakistan's Auditor General, Moajib Ullah, said in his annual report that irregularities, bungling and fraud were rampant in the government's accounts.

The black money feeding Pakistan's parallel economy was \$2 billion rupees (\$4 billion) in 1988, said Ullah, a Harvard-educated economist. "It is spiralling fast, as a result of growing corruption."

After years of unquestioning obedience to authority, traffic signs and patrolmen are frequently ignored.

"This is one unfortunate aspect of the people's interpretation of democracy," Police General Mihalache Stoleru told Reuters. "Suddenly everybody thinks his right to democracy is his right to do what he wishes on the road."

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By John Pomfret
Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister V.P. Singh's administration came into office with the promise of clean government and has launched an anti-corruption campaign, but its success is far from assured.

In fact, agreement seems general among Western and Indian diplomats and businessmen that Singh's plan to shake up state-run trading firms and reform industrial policy will do little to stem India's rising tide of malfeasance.

Some believe the expected failure will have little effect on this huge country of 880 million people and that India will lumber into the future as it has through the past.

Many more believe, however, that continued corruption at current levels will break India's economy and threaten the stability of the world's most populous democracy.

"Corruption poses a major problem for us," said Shankar Acharya, a ranking Finance Ministry official who made a ground-breaking study of India's "black" economy. "It seems to be growing daily."

The problem permeates Indian society.

Traffic cops expect "baksheesh," small bribes, to ignore violations. Businessmen consider payoffs and kickbacks part of the job.

"Every business deal has a beneficiary," said a high official of the state trading corp., India's biggest state-run trading house. "If I make a little profit on a deal that benefits India, what's wrong with that?" He would not let his name be used.

Factors that encourage corruption multiplied as India's political system and economy developed.

For about 20 years after independence from Britain in 1947, India was virtually a one-party state, run by the Congress Party.

The growth of a viable opposition in the 1960s made elections more expensive, so political bosses turned to kickbacks for money.

An expanding economy, which grew an average of more than 5 per cent a year in the 1980s, created more wealth and, with it, more temptation.

Last year, when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his congress party were voted out of power, corruption played a major role for the first time in the downfall

of a government.

Also for the first time, dirty deals have been blamed for huge losses in some industries.

India's fertiliser industry lost \$32 million in 1989 after posting a \$50 million profit the previous year.

The reason, diplomats and Indian officials say privately, was that Agriculture Ministry officials wanted a \$25 million kickback on a 500,000-ton purchase of phosphoric acid from Morocco's government phosphates company.

Morocco refused, India canceled the contract and the fertiliser industry was without essential phosphoric acid, the informants said.

Corruption also contributes greatly to a balance of payments deficit that was built a foreign debt of about \$60 billion over the last 10 years, diplomats and Western economists say.

A report by a Western embassy in January, seen by the Associated Press, estimated one-third of India's gross national product disappears into the "black" economy.

"The sheer number of beneficiaries is seemingly endless and the habit and pressure so ingrained that it would require a major change in society as a whole" to end corruption, the report said.

Singh's administration announced two major changes in May and June.

First, all state-run trading firms were put under a new umbrella organisation, Bharat Business International, which has the power to monitor international contracts, a major source of illegal wealth.

Then, the government announced an industrial policy designed to break the bureaucratic stranglehold on business licenses — the "license raj," another major channel for bribes.

Diplomats and officials of the new government say international contracts are believed to have been a major source of revenue for the Congress Party who it and Gandhi were in power.

They say purchases were made abroad for inflated prices and the sellers kicked back most of the extra money to Indian politicians, who deposited it in party bank accounts.

Preliminary charges have been filed by the government's central bureau of investigation in two cases involving members of the Gandhi government.

It alleges bribes were paid to

officials in a \$1.47 billion aircraft purchase from Europe's Airbus Industries consortium and a \$1.4 billion arms deal with Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer.

The Western and Indian informants describe the reform efforts as too little, too late.

In its reform of international purchases, the Singh government is emphasising barter. That means part of India's payment for purchases — usually 10 to 15 per cent — will be in goods, not dollars.

Industrial experts say the practice will allow politicians and bureaucrats to continue skimming money off the top because there is no way to fix the value of the bartered goods.

Reform of the "license raj" is widely expected to fail because the new industrial plan loosens regulations only on the business license. Bureaucrats and politicians could continue squeezing money from businessmen for export, import and other permits.

The structure of the Indian political system works against reform. Indian law limits campaign spending by a candidate for parliament to about \$6,000, but most spend \$175,000, according to Indian officials and diplomats.

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Preliminary charges have been filed by the government's central bureau of investigation in two cases involving members of the Gandhi government.

It alleges bribes were paid to

officials in a \$1.47 billion aircraft purchase from Europe's Airbus Industries consortium and a \$1.4 billion arms deal with Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer.

The Western and Indian informants describe the reform efforts as too little, too late.

In its reform of international purchases, the Singh government is emphasising barter. That means part of India's payment for purchases — usually 10 to 15 per cent — will be in goods, not dollars.

Industrial experts say the practice will allow politicians and bureaucrats to continue skimming money off the top because there is no way to fix the value of the bartered goods.

Reform of the "license raj" is widely expected to fail because the new industrial plan loosens regulations only on the business license. Bureaucrats and politicians could continue squeezing money from businessmen for export, import and other permits.

The structure of the Indian political system works against reform. Indian law limits campaign spending by a candidate for parliament to about \$6,000, but most spend \$175,000, according to Indian officials and diplomats.

By John Pomfret
Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister V.P. Singh's administration came into office with the promise of clean government and has launched an anti-corruption campaign, but its success is far from assured.

In fact, agreement seems general among Western and Indian diplomats and businessmen that Singh's plan to shake up state-run trading firms and reform industrial policy will do little to stem India's rising tide of malfeasance.

Some believe the expected failure will have little effect on this huge country of 880 million people and that India will lumber into the future as it has through the past.

Many more believe, however, that continued corruption at current levels will break India's economy and threaten the stability of the world's most populous democracy.

"Corruption poses a major problem for us," said Shankar Acharya, a ranking Finance Ministry official who made a ground-breaking study of India's "black" economy. "It seems to be growing daily."

The problem permeates Indian society.

Traffic cops expect "baksheesh," small bribes, to ignore violations. Businessmen consider payoffs and kickbacks part of the job.

"Every business deal has a beneficiary," said a high official of the state trading corp., India's biggest state-run trading house. "If I make a little profit on a deal that benefits India, what's wrong with that?" He would not let his name be used.

Factors that encourage corruption multiplied as India's political system and economy developed.

For about 20 years after independence from Britain in 1947, India was virtually a one-party state, run by the Congress Party.

The growth of a viable opposition in the 1960s made elections more expensive, so political bosses turned to kickbacks for money.

An expanding economy, which grew an average of more than 5 per cent a year in the 1980s, created more wealth and, with it, more temptation.

Last year, when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his congress party were voted out of power, corruption played a major role for the first time in the downfall

of a government.

Also for the first time, dirty deals have been blamed for huge losses in some industries.

India's fertiliser industry lost \$32 million in 1989 after posting a \$50 million profit the previous year.

The reason, diplomats and Indian officials say privately, was that Agriculture Ministry officials wanted a \$25 million kickback on a 500,000-ton purchase of phosphoric acid from Morocco's government phosphates company.

Morocco refused, India canceled the contract and the fertiliser industry was without essential phosphoric acid, the informants said.

Corruption also contributes greatly to a balance of payments deficit that was built a foreign debt of about \$60 billion over the last 10 years, diplomats and Western economists say.

A report by a Western embassy in January, seen by the Associated Press, estimated one-third of India's gross national product disappears into the "black" economy.

"The sheer number of beneficiaries is seemingly endless and the habit and pressure so ingrained that it would require a major change in society as a whole" to end corruption, the report said.

Singh's administration announced two major changes in May and June.

First, all state-run trading firms were put under a new umbrella organisation, Bharat Business International, which has the power to monitor international contracts, a major source of illegal wealth.

Then, the government announced an industrial policy designed to break the bureaucratic stranglehold on business licenses — the "license raj," another major channel for bribes.

Diplomats and officials of the new government say international contracts are believed to have been a major source of revenue for the Congress Party who it and Gandhi were in power.

They say purchases were made abroad for inflated prices and the sellers kicked back most of the extra money to Indian politicians, who deposited it in party bank accounts.

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CNN — a success story

By Richard Walker
Reuters

ATLANTA — When Cable News Network (CNN) went on the air 10 years ago from studios in Atlanta, it was greeted with scepticism and ridicule by the New York-based television industry.

A decade later, the 24-hour news network counts Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and Francois Mitterrand among its loyal viewers, and the operation has become one of the most profitable parts of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

Ted Turner, who was known as a regional television broadcaster and sportsman when he founded CNN, said he did so on a gut instinct that the technology had arrived to bring to life the "global village" that had long been predicted.

With Turner's \$100 million media company on the line, CNN went live on June 1, 1980 — with only 1.7 million U.S. homes able to receive its 24-hour daily all-news programmes from Atlanta.

Today the network is available in 55 million U.S. homes, and Atlanta has become an international media centre with CNN being broadcast by satellite in 92 countries.

"I didn't really know where CNN was going to start with," Turner told Reuters. "I just wanted to get it up there and running and see if it would work here."

"If, 10 years ago, we could have gone into the future and seen where we are now, I would have been very happy," he added.

In its first five years CNN lost \$77 million but the service turned the corner and financial analysts now say it has more than two billion dollars in assets and is the "crown jewel" of Turner's media empire.

The news business accounted for almost 60 per cent of Turner Broadcasting's \$224.2 million in 1989 operating profits although it generated only 32 per cent of total corporate revenues of \$1.06 billion.

Turner himself remains a highly leveraged company that has not reported a full-year net profit since 1985 because of heavy interest payments and accounting write-offs from entertainment deals.

"Ted Turner thought there was a need for a 24-hour news channel devoted to cable programmers (who) would eventually want programming that was available only on their systems," said

Julia Turner, a senior analyst at Moody's investor service. She is not related to the television tycoon.

"It was a fairly expensive proposition, and it turned out he was right."

The average number of CNN's viewers may be only a fraction of the three major broadcast networks in the United States, but Julia Turner noted that the channel has almost complete penetration of the U.S. cable market and an affluent, well-educated audience that allows it to command premium prices for advertising and subscriber fees.

Analysts say growth opportunities continue both in the United States and in foreign markets, where CNN has become a must for many government and business leaders who want to monitor major breaking news developments such as last year's student protests in China.

The leaders of Britain, France and the Soviet Union have all been reported as CNN viewers, along with other politicians and diplomats worldwide.

Turner's news division uses CNN as a base for a companion service, headline news, introduced in late 1981 and now available in more than 35 million U.S. homes, and a more recent Spanish language TV news service.

With 16 news bureaux outside the U.S. and alliances with foreign TV networks ranging from Australia to Zimbabwe, analysts say the international growth vehicle for the Turner broadcasting new division.

Turner and CNN face competition in international markets from broadcast suppliers such as News Corp's Sky Channel.

But industry experts point to strategic alliances as ways to rein in costs. In one such move, a CNN spokesman said, there is an "agreement in principle" to share costs with rival CBS Inc for a news bureau to be opened in Berlin.

Bear Stearns media analyst Mary Kukowski said she values CNN and its related Turner news operations at \$2.1 billion based on the 1990 business outlook, and projects they will be worth almost \$2.5 billion in 1991.

Turner conceded the next decade would likely not be as "exciting" as the past 10 years but predicted it would produce interesting new developments for his all-news channels, which now employ more than 1,700 people worldwide.

Democracy brings death to Romania's roads

By David Tucker
Reuters

BUCHAREST — Democracy has brought death to Romania's roads.

Official statistics show 1,380 people were killed on the roads between December, when communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was swept from power, and the beginning of June. The figure is more than double the number killed in the same period last year.

ROME (R)—Coach Carlos Bilardo is confident that skill not fortune will come to Argentina's aid if Sunday's World Cup final against West Germany goes to a penalty shoot-out.

"I told Serrizuela he was kicking the first and he said that was fine. If he'd told me he didn't want to, my image of Serrizuela

Nestor Lorenzo, who may be given the difficult task of shadowing West German captain Lothar Matthaeus, has appeared once since then as a substitute, while Roberto Sensi has seen no

"West Germany looked better than in Mexico but Argentina, against Italy, covered the field well and that's what we'll take into Sunday's match," Maradona said.

Only once in 65 games in charge has Beckenbauer fielded the same starting line-up for two straight matches — the first two

Manager of the West German national squad Franz Beckenbauer (right) will plan his last game Sunday for the German team before stepping down. Former West German soccer star Bertl Vogts (left) will take over the job from the 'Kaiser'.

Dutch defender Rijkaard and alternative could be found.

Kissinger boosts 1994 tournament in U.S.

"I was in top physical shape but emotional condition left a little to be desired," he says. "I was not on the beach against Argentina in 1986, would dearly love to be on the winning side in the last two finals.

"I'm tired of plain, boring salad, so I created something new — junk food salad!"

Win at Wimbledon Sunday

Q.—Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—To overcall two diamonds risks losing the spade suit. Actually, your hand is suitable for play in any of

Q.—The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	2 ♣	?	?

What action do you take?

A.—The trouble with bidding two diamonds is that it is forcing and

Old acquaintances meet again

He showed emotion, too,umping his fists on big points and forcing a smile of resignation om Lendl late in the match as another winner zoomed by.

Since the spade finesse is surely working and partner has announced a heart stopper three no trump seems like the obvious move.

If Hollywood were staging this thriller — and the way commercialism and show-biz seem to be making over Wimbledon, that may be far off — it would be called "The Power and the Glory."

He showed emotion, too, pumping his fists on big points and forcing a smile of resignation on Lendl late in the match as the former winner seemed to be out of his depth against Wimbledon champions — Rod Laver, Tony Wilding and Reggie Doherty. Willie Renshaw, another star from the 1890's holds the men's record with seven.

A.—The trouble with bidding two diamonds is that it is forcing and

23 Thrall of yore	33	53	76					75					
24 Despota	48							37					

spense, probably about 10 points. Since the spade finesse is surely working and partner has announced a heart stopper three no trump seems like the obvious move.

DOWN	32	Door	39	One's teeth	45	Understand
1 On the right	33	flame		(reproach)	47	Chase
2 Loath	34	Pyle	40	Football	49	Take — from
3 Lessee		Lavishing		player		me
4 Wear slowly	35	love	41	Finally	51	Edible
5 Unit of force	37	Entranced	42	Well-being		tuber
		Skunk	44	Purplish color	52	Time abbr.

LA SEMAINE

de Suheilman Sweiss

Jerash: le Festival

Dans quelques jours, le IX Festival de Jerash pour les Arts et la Culture commencent.

Depuis quelques années je m'y intéresse car il représente une occasion exceptionnelle pour les Jordaniens d'apprécier les arts (Chanson, théâtre, musique etc.).

L'idée du festival est très bonne, même si sa réalisation est venue assez tard. Déjà, dans les années soixante certains Jordaniens, enthousiastes pour la culture, rêvaient d'un équivalent du festival de Baalbek au Liban, qui a connu un succès extraordinaire. Mais si l'idée a été bonne, sa concrétisation ne l'a pas toujours été au cours des années précédentes.

On voulait commercialiser les antiquités du pays, alors on a choisi Jerash, la ville historique romaine. On voulait attirer le maximum de gens, surtout ceux qui sont prêts à dépenser, alors on a choisi le mois de juillet, période qui connaît un afflux des Jordaniens travaillant à l'étranger et d'autres touristes venant des quatre coins du monde.

Festival pour «des arts et la culture», Jerash est en fait une entreprise commerciale-touristique.

Cette année encore, les billets varient entre 2 J.D. pour les groupes jordaniens et 4 à 6 J.D. pour les autres. Supposons qu'une famille jordanaise (composée en moyenne de cinq membres) veuille aller au festival de Jerash. Elle choisit de regarder la danse d'un groupe folklorique jordanaise (2 J.D. par personne). Si elle vient d'Amman ou de Salt, il faut penser au transport. De plus, elle aura besoin de consommer quelques sandwiches et des boissons. Un petit calcul nous amène à constater que cette famille dépensera 15 J.D. au moins. Cela pour une seule soirée. Il est certain que le budget du Jordaniens moyen ne peut pas tolérer une telle dépense.

Le festival de Jerash est réservé aux élites et aux riches. Les statistiques indiquent qu'il a été fréquenté en dix jours par cinquante mille personnes chacune des années précédentes. Les prix des billets, les problèmes de transports ne sont certainement pas étrangers, à ce nombre réduit de spectateurs. Curieusement, les habitants de Jerash participent très peu au festival qui se passe chez eux et ils n'en profitent pas beaucoup. C'est une façon de les remercier quoi!

On s'attendait à ce que le festival acquière une personnalité qui lui soit propre, qu'il reflète le développement de la culture dans notre pays. Malheureusement, le festival de Jerash s'est transformé au fil des années en une sorte de centre saisonnier de loisirs et d'amusement.

Bien entendu, je mets à part quelques pièces de théâtre et groupes folkloriques. Après de nombreuses critiques, on a fait plus de place, ces dernières années, à des groupes jordaniens.

Enfin une telle entreprise doit être gérée par des gens de compétence, que ce soit au niveau artistique, culturel ou administratif. Il y a quelques années, le syndicat des artistes jordaniens a protesté contre son exclusion des travaux de préparation au festival.

Bref, pour développer le festival de Jerash, nous avons besoin de répondre clairement à quatre questions:

1-Définir l'identité du festival: il doit être jordanaise avant tout. Il est censé présenter la production culturelle des Jordaniens et encourager cette production pourquoi donc ne pas décerner un prix à la meilleure pièce de théâtre, à la meilleure chanson etc. chaque année?

2-Donner la priorité au souci culturel et ne pas considérer l'aspect commercial et financier comme fondamental.

3-Cela nous amène à parler du public du festival. Nous croyons que la réduction des prix des billets aidera beaucoup de gens à le fréquenter plus souvent. Le festival devra être «populaire». Le peuple n'a pas beaucoup d'occasions d'accéder à la culture. Jerash est comme une «oasis» culturelle, notamment pour ceux qui habitent à la campagne.

4-Démocratiser la structure de l'administration du festival et faire participer activement les hommes et les femmes de la culture -ceux qui ont les idées et les initiatives créatrices.

Bon Festival!



Amman by night

Le charme discret des boîtes de nuit

Tous les soirs, sur le coup de 22h-22h30, une trentaine de «night-clubs» allument leur enseigne et postent leurs vigiles à la porte pour héler le client et filtrer les entrées. Plus que des night-clubs au sens

Nous sommes sur la grande rue qui descend du troisième cercle, en direction du centre-ville. Un peu avant la grande tour, sur la droite, une entrée en ciment gris, quelques graffitis et une enseigne: celle du club Omal Khaïam. Le temps de monter cinq étages en ascenseur, vous quittez ce rez-de-chaussée sinistre pour pénétrer dans une ambiance luxueuse et feutrée de bois verni et d'épaisse moquette.

Sous une lumière tamisée, une vingtaine de personnes, portant souvent keffiyeh et Jala-bieh, sont attablées, par groupes de deux à cinq ou six. Rien que des hommes, bien que les femmes soient en principe admises.

Seule représentante de la gent féminine, une chanteuse interprète des chansons arabes, accompagnée de sept musiciens et un chanteur.

Sous le charme de cette belle voix mêlée aux sons du tambourin, de la flûte, du violon et du luth, quelques clients se lèvent pour bouger en cadence. D'autres agitent leurs deux mains comme pour inviter la chanteuse à se rapprocher de leur table. Celle-ci accepte alors d'adresser quelques paroles de sa chanson

d'amour à l'intéressé, mais elle n'ira pas plus loin: il lui est interdit de s'asseoir avec les clients sous peine de fermeture du night-club. Pour se consoler on peut admirer les lumières de la ville d'Amman qui se déploient derrière la vaste baie vitrée.

C'est en effet une particularité du night-club Omal Khaïam (à ne pas confondre avec le restaurant du même nom qui se trouve au 23ème étage de la grande tour) que

français du terme, ce sont en fait des cabarets où l'on vient boire une verre ou dîner, en écoutant musiciens et chanteurs ou en regardant des danseuses...



de dominer ainsi la ville, alors que la plupart des autres sont implantés en sous-sol.

La trentaine de night-clubs que compte Amman, ne sont pas concentrés dans un seul quartier. Ils sont relativement bien répartis dans la ville, à raison de trois ou quatre sur chaque Jebel.

Tous sont recensés par une commission spéciale du ministère du tourisme qui leur fournit l'autorisation de s'implanter et leur attribue une catégorie, de une à cinq étoiles. Les cinq étoiles sont réservées aux grands hôtels, mais ce ne sont pas forcément les endroits les plus agréables.

Pour moi, explique Helmi Shaker, le propriétaire de l'Omal Khaïam, les meilleurs night clubs sont ceux de trois à quatre étoiles. En dessous, on risque de tomber dans des lieux mal famés; au dessus, l'entrée est réservée aux couples: les célibataires n'y ont pas accès. Le passage de la commission, tous les cinq ans, incite les propriétaires à maintenir le standing de leur boîte de nuit pour ne pas perdre une étoile ou leur autorisation.

L'entrée dans un night-club coûte en général entre 8 et 10 dinars avec le dîner, et les boissons sont vendues entre 3 et 5 dinars le verre. Mais il existe d'autres formules. L'entrée au «H.R.», sur une route qui part du deuxième cercle à droite en venant du troisième cercle, est à 5 dinars avec un verre, auxquels il faut ajouter 15 à 20 dinars si l'on veut y manger. A ce prix, la clientèle se limite à la haute

société jordanaise et aux touristes du Golfe. Omar al-Arab, directeur du «H.R.», estime que le quart de sa clientèle vient du Golfe. «Depuis la crise économique, explique-t-il, nos entrées ont diminué de moitié et les affaires ne tournent vraiment bien que l'été, lorsque les touristes arrivent.»

Le H.R. est un ancien bowling-discothèque transformé, où une danseuse libanaise blonde, en tenue léopard, interprète pendant 1h30 non-stop la fameuse danse du ventre, précédée et suivie par des chanteurs et des danseuses folkloriques.

Pour plaire à la clientèle du Golfe, les clubs jouent assez souvent de la musique de l'Arabie, et l'argent coule à flots. Le chic, au night-club de l'hôtel Comodore à Shmeisani notamment (entrée 10 JD avec repas), consiste à appeler le chanteur à sa table et à lui déverser sur la tête une pluie de billets de cinq dinars, voire à lui offrir un long collier de billets de vingt dinars, qu'il partagera avec les danseuses et les musiciens.

Les jours d'affluence dans les boîtes de nuit sont le mercredi et le jeudi, mais il y a du monde tous les jours de la semaine.

Elles ferment sur le coup de 3h30-4h30 du matin. Juste le temps de boire un café, pour avoir le plaisir de voir le soleil se lever en un clin d'oeil sur Amman, endormie dans sa fraîcheur.

Jean-Marc Bordes et Sabah Hadidi

Chanteurs

Conte de fée ou déshonneur?

Maquillée, vêtue d'une longue robe à volant, Abir Hamoud ressemble à une poupée. A 16 ans, elle est chanteuse à l'Omal Khaïam.

Elle a débuté dans ce métier il y a un peu plus de trois ans, à l'âge de douze ans et demi, et pour elle la vie ressemble à un conte de fée. Tous les soirs, en chantant quelques heures, elle gagne 80 dinars net. Elle est en plus nourrie, logée et accompagnée à son hôtel aux frais de son employeur. «N'étant pas majeure, explique-t-elle, je ne peux pratiquer ce métier qu'à la condition d'être accompagnée en permanence par mon père, dont les frais sont également remboursés.»

La somme est importante, mais elle l'est encore plus pour l'employeur, qui doit payer 50% de taxes sur son salaire et sur tous ses frais. La loi jordanaise prévoit d'ailleurs que la taxe sur les frais d'hébergement et de transport est réclamée à l'employeur, même s'il ne les prend pas à sa charge, ce qui incite la plupart d'entre eux à le faire.

Pourtant, le métier d'artiste, et tout particulièrement de chanteur ou danseuse, a mauvaise réputation et est considéré comme déshonorant dans les pays arabes. C'est la raison pour laquelle, la plupart des artistes qui se produisent dans les night-clubs d'Amman viennent de l'étranger: Abir Hamoud est libanaise, les autres sont tunisiens, égyptiens, syriens, irakiens ou autres. «Les rares Jordaniens qui acceptent de se produire à Amman, explique le directeur du R.H., sont tous des hommes. Tous les autres vont se produire dans les boîtes de nuit étrangères pour préserver leur réputation ici.»

Les directeurs de boîtes de nuit passent donc une bonne partie de leur temps à fréquenter les boîtes étrangères, pour y dénicher des noms connus qui acceptent de travailler pour eux, avec l'accord du ministère de l'intérieur.

Les fées se cachent pour exercer leur magie.

AVIS A LA COMMUNAUTE FRANCAISE

L'Ambassade de France a le plaisir d'informer la Communauté française qu'à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, une réception sera organisée dans les jardins de la Résidence de l'Ambassadeur de France, le samedi 14 juillet à 20h. Tous les Français présents en Jordanie sont cordialement invités.

CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCAIS

La bibliothèque du Centre Culturel Français sera fermée du mardi 9 juillet au 12 août. La cellule audiovisuelle sera fermée du même jour jusqu'au 20 août. Les horaires d'été du CCF (jusqu'au 1er septembre) sont les suivants: 8h-12h et 15h-19h.

EN BREF

Parti. Un nouveau parti, proche du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine (FPLP de Georges Habache) basé à Damas, a été créé en Jordanie. Il s'agit du deuxième parti jordanien pro-palestinien créé dans le pays après le Parti Populaire Démocratique jordanien (PPDJ) fondé en 1974. Les partis sont interdits en Jordanie depuis 1957, mais une charte, qui sera soumise à un référendum, doit être élaborée prochainement par une commission royale pour définir le cadre général de la constitution de partis jordaniens.

Raid. L'aviation israélienne a attaqué vendredi matin au Liban des bases du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine-Commandement Général (FPLP-CG, d'Ahmad Jibril). Quatre chasseurs israéliens ont mené un raid à 7h50 au dessus de la localité de Sultan Yacoub, dans la plaine de la Bekaa sous contrôle syrien. Une série de déflagration a été aussitôt entendue et un épais nuage de fumée s'est élevé d'un dépôt de munitions du FPLP-CG, une formation hostile au chef de l'O.L.P. Yasser Arafat, et proche de l'Iran. Cinq minutes plus tard, un autre raid s'est attaqué aux bases de la même formation, à Khan Hayat (au Liban nord) également sous contrôle syrien.

Catastrophe. 1.426 pèlerins, dont deux Jordaniens, ont trouvé la mort lundi à Mina, au sud de la Mecque, dans un tunnel piétonnier édifié ces dernières années pour permettre une meilleure circulation des fidèles d'un lieu saint à un autre et diminuer les risques d'insolation. Une panne du système d'air conditionné serait à l'origine de la catastrophe. La chaleur est très vite devenue insupportable, selon des témoins, ce qui a provoqué une immense panique dans la foule qui circulait dans le tunnel. Les gens se sont mis à courir dans tous les sens, se bousculant les uns les autres. Certains pèlerins ont été asphyxiés et d'autres ont été piétinés. Quelque 5.000 pèlerins se trouvaient, au moment de la panne, à l'intérieur du tunnel, qui ne devait en contenir qu'un millier.

Albanie. Plusieurs milliers d'Albanais se sont réfugiés dans les ambassades de Tirana, après de graves incidents qui ont fait entre 20 et 50 morts lundi dans la capitale albanaise. Ils sont plus de 800 à l'ambassade de RFA et plus de 120 à l'ambassade de France. Les autres se répartissent entre 16 autres ambassades européennes pour la plupart. Le gouvernement de Tirana a remis un mémorandum aux ambassades dans lequel il affirme qu'aucune poursuite légale ne sera engagée contre les Albanais réfugiés dans les missions étrangères. L'Albanie s'est aussi déclarée prête à délivrer rapidement 15.000 passeports et visas de sortie pour ses ressortissants souhaitant émigrer.

Détente. Les 16 alliés de l'OTAN ont adopté vendredi, à l'issue de leur onzième sommet à Londres, une déclaration marquant solennellement la fin de quarante ans de guerre froide et réaffirmant la place d'une alliance renouvelée dans une Europe nouvelle. Pour bien souligner qu'une ère nouvelle s'ouvre, le président américain George Bush a proposé à ce sommet d'inviter le président soviétique Mikhaïl Gorbatchev à venir bientôt s'exprimer devant l'OTAN.

Chypre-CEE. Le gouvernement chypriote a présenté sa candidature, mercredi à Nicosie, pour devenir membre à part entière de la CEE. Les responsables politiques chypriotes estiment qu'une adhésion à la CEE pourra aider à la solution du problème de Chypre. L'île est en effet divisée depuis que l'armée turque a, en 1974, occupé la partie nord, où a été proclamée en 1983 la République turque de Chypre du nord.

Marcos. Imelda Marcos, l'épouse de l'ex-dictateur des Philippines, a eu lundi un splendide 61ème anniversaire. Alors qu'elle risquait 50 ans de prison et un million de dollars d'amende pour détournement des fonds du trésor philippin, elle a été lavée de toute accusation par les jurés du tribunal de New-York qui l'ont acquittée. Mme Marcos était accusée d'avoir détourné 222 millions de dollars de l'Etat Philippin pour acheter à son nom quatre immeubles à New-York.

Tchernobyl. Le pilote de l'hélicoptère soviétique irradié à Tchernobyl, a succombé lundi soir à une défaillance cardio-pulmonaire, à l'hôpital de Seattle (Etats-Unis), où il était traité depuis le 11 avril dernier. Le pilote a été irradié alors qu'il survolait la centrale de Tchernobyl après l'explosion du 26 avril 1986, afin de larguer du sable et du ciment sur le réacteur en feu d'où s'échappaient des gaz hautement radioactifs.

Démission. Le ministre français du tourisme, Olivier Stirn, a démissionné mercredi du gouvernement socialiste de Michel Rocard, à la suite d'une affaire qui avait provoqué une vive indignation dans la classe politique et qui menaçait de devenir un scandale embarrassant. M. Stirn a reconnu que son association politique, Dialogue 2000, avait payé des chômeurs pour venir garnir les rangs d'un colloque auquel plusieurs ministres avaient participé. Ce colloque intitulé «Etats généraux du progrès» s'était ouvert lundi dernier devant une salle pratiquement vide. Mardi, la salle était comble grâce à ce stratagème. Plusieurs membres du parti socialiste et notamment son leader, Pierre Mauroy, ont exigé la démission du ministre du tourisme, craignant que cette affaire ne ternisse encore l'image de la classe politique française.

Izieu. La maison d'Izieu, petite localité en France, au nord de Lyon (Centre-est), où 44 enfants juifs avaient été arrêtés sous l'occupation nazie pour être déportés à Auschwitz, va devenir un musée mémoriel. Elle a été achetée pour 1,7 millions de FF (200.000 dinars environ), lundi matin, par une association placée sous le haut patronage du président François Mitterrand. Cette association avait lancé une collecte en avril dernier pour compléter les subventions publiques, qui couvrent 60% du total.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Bédouins

L'union des tribus par le mariage

Les Bédouins ne se marient pas seulement pour former une famille. Le mariage a aussi, pour eux, une signification sociale: il est le symbole de l'estime

Selon la tradition et la coutume bédouines, les jeunes filles doivent avoir une conduite sage, et ne pas fréquenter les jeunes hommes, car ceux-ci n'aiment pas se marier avec une fille qui a une mauvaise réputation. Les parents sont responsables devant la société bédouine de leur bonne éducation, et s'il a été prouvé que la fille est mal conduite, ils ont le devoir et l'obligation de la tuer. La tribu s'intéresse à la pureté des liens du sang: il suffit d'un seul défaut pour perturber la société.

Le Bédouin préfère se marier avec une fille de la même tribu. Si le jeune homme est plus proche de la jeune fille par le lien de parenté, il a la primauté pour se marier avec elle. Il a le droit d'empêcher le mariage de cette

que se portent deux tribus. Il peut aussi sceller la réconciliation entre deux tribus ennemies.

est un signe de consentement. Ensuite ils lisent un verset du Coran (Al Fatha), et la cérémonie s'achève ainsi.

Le mariage chez un juge est pratiqué par les bédouins habitant dans les villages ou les cités.

2-Le mariage d'échange: le Bédouin peut épouser une fille en échange de l'une de ses parentes. Il faut alors qu'une fille de sa famille se marie avec un jeune homme ayant un lien de parenté avec la fille qu'il désire. Dans ce cas, la dot que l'homme doit payer à son épouse est supprimée, les deux filles échangées constituant cette dot.

3-Le mariage par enlèvement: le jeune homme enlève la fille si leur mariage n'a pas été approuvé. On remarque ici deux sortes d'enlèvement: l'enlèvement coercitif, qui se caractérise par la violence imposée de celui qui s'empare de la fille, malgré elle. Cet acte est mal vu par la société bédouine.

L'enlèvement volontaire se caractérise par une volonté conjointe de celui qui enlève et de l'enlevée. On l'exécute devant des témoins qui s'assurent que le jeune homme n'a pas touché la main de la fille et n'a pas embrassé son front (signe de bonne moralité). D'habitude, le parent accepte de marier leur fille à celui qui a enlevé moyennant le paiement d'une dot et d'une amende que le juge détermine au cas par cas.

4-Le mariage après un meurtre. On échange des proches de l'assassin et de l'assassiné pour réunir deux tribus rivales et pour indemniser la tribu de l'assassiné par les enfants de la mariée. Celle-ci a le droit de revenir chez ses parents une fois qu'elle a eu un garçon et que celui-ci arrive à l'âge viril. Ainsi, le but de ce mariage est atteint. Ensuite et par accord des deux parties, le mariage peut prendre sa forme et son sens habituels.

5-Le mariage de récompense. Quand un Bédouin sauve

une fille du viol, ou s'il sauve sa vie ou celle de son père ou de son frère, ou bien encore s'il a aidé la tribu à échapper à une invasion, le père en question offre sa fille à ce Bédouin en récompense comme épouse. En reconnaissance, le Bédouin doit offrir quelques brebis ou une somme d'argent pour exprimer son respect envers la fille et sa tribu.

Celui qui marie la fille doit être son père, son frère ou son oncle. Quand on marie une fille vierge, on ne prend pas son avis. On demande l'avis de sa mère, de sa tante ou d'une vieille femme de la maison. Ensuite, c'est à son père de prendre la décision finale.

Une divorcée, en revanche, a son mot à dire. Elle a l'entière liberté de décider comme elle l'entend.

La dot est souvent constituée d'un nombre de chameaux, de brebis ou de moutons. C'est le père de la fille mariée qui dispose de la dot. Les chevaux sont rarement offerts en dot, sauf si la fille est très belle ou d'une très grande famille.

La mariée a le droit de garder pour elle les cadeaux de mariage, qui peuvent être des brebis, des moutons, de l'or... de manière à ce que la nouvelle famille possède une fortune qui soit égale à la fortune des autres familles.

Quand une fille se marie, elle prend de la maison de son père quelques matelas et quelques biens, en signe de reconnaissance des services qu'elle a rendus à sa famille. Car elle reste en bonnes relations avec ses parents, qui n'hésitent pas à l'aider en cas de besoin. Son mari peut la renvoyer chez ses parents si elle fait preuve d'une conduite bête, car la famille de l'épouse est responsable d'elle.

En général, la femme veut que le bien moral de la femme soit pour son mari et que sa mauvaise conduite soit de la responsabilité de ses parents.

Ghada Al-Hadidi

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Sensibilités neptuniennes

Ave Egeria,

Les faits qui nous forment le caractère, qui nous font tels que nous sommes, passent généralement inaperçus des parents, des amis ou des personnes qui les provoquent innocemment. Petite, il était des choses dont je n'aurais jamais parlé, parce qu'elles touchaient au plus profond de ma sensibilité et qu'une immense pudeur les rendait secrètes. Souvent douloureuses, elles me saisissaient la nuit venue, dans leur qualité transcendante.

Il y avait un vieil homme qui habitait une chambre en briques d'argile, construite sur le toit d'une maison, juste en face de l'entrée de l'hôpital. Il était grand de taille, maigre, courbé, lent et chenu. Je ne me souviens pas l'avoir jamais entendu parler. Il venait deux fois par semaine frapper à notre porte et nous vendait des oeufs. Mon angoisse violente et douloureuse était que s'il mourait, personne ne s'en apercevrait. Telle était la solitude totale qui émanait de sa personne. Après la guerre, une fois rentrée à Amman, j'ai immédiatement cherché du regard la chambrette: elle n'y était plus et j'ai appris qu'en effet, les voisins ne s'étaient aperçus de la mort du vieux, que quelques jours après. Il vit dans mes prières et je regrette qu'il n'ait jamais su que je l'aimais.

On asphaltait le bout de chemin qui relie la voie municipale à l'hôpital: un ouvrier était venu qui conduisait un énorme rouleau compresseur, aller et retour, aller et retour. En voyant mon regard admiratif, il m'avait pris près de lui sur le siège. Je touchais le ciel avec un doigt, je n'osais presque pas respirer de peur que cette énorme chance qui me touchait ne s'évanouisse telle un rêve. A midi, en descendant pour aller déjeuner, il m'a dit: «Va à la maison maintenant. Maman t'appelle». En apprenant que Maman ne m'avait pas appelée du tout, j'ai été submergée par une vague d'humiliation blessante et cruelle: le sentiment auquel plus tard j'ai prêté des mots était: «ma sensibilité est si grossière, que j'ai obligé ce pauvre bonhomme à trouver une excuse pour se débarrasser de ma présence. Il ne faudra jamais plus que cela se reproduise». Il m'est arrivé très rarement, en effet, de frapper à la porte de quelqu'un sans avoir été tout à fait invitée. Prête à cueillir le moindre geste d'impatience ou d'ennui, vrai ou imaginaire, chez mes interlocuteurs, j'ai toujours été la première à m'éloigner. Pas toujours très facile.

En 1940, le Consulat général d'Italie de Jérusalem, dont nous dépendions, nous faisait rapatrier. La guerre était imminente, l'atmosphère à la maison tendue et triste. Papa allait rester à son poste à l'hôpital. J'avais presque huit ans, et la sensation nébuleuse d'être la proie d'une fatalité méchante m'a poussée, avant le départ, à des gestes qui me paraissent aujourd'hui avoir eu la valeur de rites propitiatoires: j'ai caché des petits cailloux blancs aux formes étranges, dans un creux du mur du jardin et j'ai planté une poignée de blé sous les sapins qui poussaient entre la maison et l'hôpital. J'ai retrouvé, à mon retour les cailloux mais, bien sûr, je n'ai jamais su si le blé avait poussé.

Pendant la guerre, le fil d'Ariane qui me reliait à tout ce que j'aimais, était une vieille chanson arménienne dont les mots sont figés à tout jamais dans ma mémoire:

«Arêvê nor zakerê
im yarêdoun yeguerê
shakkour shoukkour kamârê
boie bossie im yarêd»

Je l'ai chantée désespérément quand le bombardement de Turin du 2 novembre 1942, a détruit l'immeuble où nous habitions. Il nous a fallu longtemps pour sortir de l'abri. Turin était en flammes, on marchait sur les débris de maçonnerie et de verre. A la gare la foule excitée se battait pour monter dans les trains. Grand-mère, résolue et ferme comme d'habitude, nous a introduits dans le wagon, mon frère et moi, par la fenêtre, après nous avoir épinglé sur la robe de chambre un feuillet où elle avait gribouillé l'adresse d'une cousine qui habitait Bra: «Rappelle-toi, tu devras descendre à Bra, Bra, souviens-toi, Bra». J'avais dix ans et mon frère moins de cinq. On s'est donné la main et j'ai continué à chanter la chanson. Curieusement je ne me souviens pas du reste du voyage. Evidemment nous sommes arrivés à destination. C'était la première des incursions aériennes «tappeto». Les bombardiers au vrillissement puissant, d'autant plus menaçant qu'il semblait lent, se plaçaient sur la ville et dégageaient leurs bombes en même temps. L'impact de toutes ces explosions simultanées était terrifiant. Mais ce qui m'a le plus marquée de toute cette aventure, est le fait que Nonna m'avait fait confiance.

Chez la cousine de Bra, il poussait, dans la cour, un arbre de calycanthe. Sur ses branches nues de feuilles, sombres, souvent recouvertes de neige, les fleurs jaunes et bordeaux exhalaient leur parfum et me disaient que, quand bien même tout semble s'écrouler autour de nous, il y a quelque part un miracle qui se produit. J'ai peut-être appris cela à un ami qui sait comprendre. Il ressemble à un épi de blé mur qui se balance à la brise dans une touffe de fleurs de lin. Je désire lui faire cadeau de cette image, pour que le bleu de ces fleurs adoucisse ses moments de mélancolie neptunienne.

Vale Egeria!

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Documentaire historique

Humain, trop humain

Un monde embrasé (The World at War, 1975) est une épopée destinée à faire connaître à ceux qui ne l'ont pas vécue la Deuxième guerre mondiale. A l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de cet événement, le British Council la présentera à partir du samedi 14 juillet en 26 épisodes, à raison de deux chapitres par jour.

La série s'appuie sur des films, très bien composés, que les factions antagonistes (l'Allemagne, l'Italie et le Japon d'un côté; la France, l'Angleterre, la Russie et l'Amérique de l'autre) ont tourné à l'époque pour s'en servir de propagande à usage interne ou externe. Réorganisée sous la direction de Noble Frankland, conservateur de l'Imperial War Museum de Londres, la matière a été divisée et regroupée en trois catégories de documents: les épisodes décrivant l'enchaînement des cours politiques et militaires; ceux braqués sur les préparatifs et les épreuves civiles sur les fronts métropolitains; ceux, enfin, qui évoquent de grands thèmes: signification de l'occupation, génocide, bombe atomique et ses séquences.

Fascinante telle qu'elle est, cette anthologie souffre d'une grande lacune. Il y manque une thèse, qui puisse réunir l'ensemble d'un point de vue historiographique. Les questions posées aux survivants nazis (et non des moindres: Speer, Dönitz) se limitent à l'aspect technique (organisation, stratégie) des évolutions de la guerre: elles ne touchent jamais à l'idéologie.

La présentation du massacre de la ville d'Oradour-sur-Glanne, en France, nous instruit sur la direction visée par le producteur de l'ensemble, Jeremy Isaacs. En faisant le choix de faire de cette ville du Limousin un symbole de la souffrance universelle (au même titre que Stalingrad ou Hiroshima mais en oubliant curieusement Hambourg ou Dresde) plutôt qu'une victime du fléau nazi, il étend totalement la question des raisons qui ont conduit à cette guerre, la plus meurtrière du siècle. Car le génocide qu'a subi l'Europe, né des théories racistes des nazis, n'était que le commencement. La tragédie d'Oradour-sur-Glanne nous instruit d'avantage. Cette communauté de 1.000 âmes anéantie - ses habitants massacrés, ses bâtiments ruinés, son être oblitéré - nous dit que la civilisation de l'Europe, que les nazis voulaient remplacer par un ordre nouveau (et pas seulement sur le plan des races) était en grand péril dans les années 1933-1945.

Ce point essentiel mis de côté, le documentaire ne mérite que des louanges. Si l'intention des producteurs était de bâtir une épopée à la manière d'Homère, qui nous décrit en détail les grands moments de cette guerre sous ses aspects les plus intimes, ils ont réussi à merveille.

La méthode est fascinante. On nous présente des cartes animées pour éclairer la pensée militaire et politique des antagonistes. On nous fournit des images frappantes pour souligner un détail social. Dans les airs, sur mer, sur terre, par un montage extraordinaire d'images fixes, de mouvements de caméra et de fonds enchaînés, on nous donne une vision intime, humaine des batailles. Lorsque le montage manquant, on a commandé des dessins inspirés par les témoignages.

La somme de ces travaux, commentés par la voix de Lawrence Olivier - grand acteur - et enrichis par les partitions de Carl Davis - compositeur doté d'une vive sensibilité pour les scènes d'action - fait de la série une chronique de guerre passionnante, mais qui se limite à la perception universelle de l'individu confronté à UNE guerre, sans aborder la spécificité et les causes profondes de CETTE guerre-ci.

Reste un point: en présentant The World at War dans un hall public, le British Council commet une erreur stratégique. Le va-et-vien des visiteurs risque à coup sûr de distraire ceux qui voudraient regarder ce documentaire avec attention. Voilà qui risque d'étouffer un des éléments indispensables de cette anthologie - et aussi une des plus grandes sources de satisfaction qu'elle procure: la narration de Lawrence Olivier.

The World at War ne commencera que le 14 juillet. Espérons que les responsables se montreront à la hauteur des circonstances et changeront le lieu de la présentation.

Sami Kasmal

Stage à Amman

La révolution des techniques numériques

Trois semaines de séminaire de formation aux techniques numériques viennent de s'achever à Amman. Un stage organisé par les télécommunications jordaniennes et françaises, par la radio-télévision jordanienne et par l'UNESCO. Dix-sept stagiaires venus de six pays (Jordanie, Yémen, Egypte, Irak, Syrie et Liban) ont profité de l'occasion. Mais au fait, que sont ces fameuses techniques numériques?

Jusqu'à un passé récent, l'électronique utilisait, pour la transmission des messages, des techniques analogiques, c'est à dire que les signaux à transmettre étaient traités par des équipements qui ajoutaient leur propre perturbation interne à l'information à transmettre.

Aujourd'hui, grâce à des procédés particuliers de codage, toute information à transmettre (parole, son, image ou chiffres) est transformée par les techniques numériques en une série de valeurs binaires (0 ou 1). Ainsi transformés, les messages peuvent être transmis avec un minimum d'erreurs, stockés momentanément, indexés, répertoriés très rapidement. Toute perturbation éventuelle du signal peut être détectée et, le plus souvent, il est possible de reconstituer l'information d'origine et de la séparer de la perturbation.

La numérisation des équipements de télécommunication a facilité l'extension des réseaux des pays développés, qui étaient presque arrivés à un degré de saturation. De leur côté, les pays en voie de développement, malgré leurs problèmes financiers, voient croître très rapidement leurs réseaux de télécommunication, car les prix sont en forte décroissance grâce à la combinaison des avantages technologiques de la numérisation et de la compétition entre les industriels.

Les techniques numériques sont favorables à l'émergence de services de données les plus variés. L'imagination des techniciens, la large gamme d'applications pour la clientèle d'affaires et le prix à payer sont les trois principaux facteurs qui stimulent la création et l'évolution de ces services, souvent appelés «à valeur ajoutée». Ce secteur d'activités est en pleine expansion dans les pays développés. Leur ouverture dans les pays en voie de développement pose souvent problème à cause du compromis à trouver entre la disponibilité des investissements, la possibilité du transfert technologique et l'urgence ressentie par des économies nationales fragiles et peu expérimentées.

Toutefois, le besoin de communication internationale est un stimulant pour l'ouverture de services de données, le premier d'entre eux, par sa simplicité d'emploi et par le nombre de terminaux en service dans le monde (plus de 10 millions en 1990) est la télécopie ou fac-simile. La compression des données, c'est à dire la suite de 0 et de 1 qui résulte de l'analyse ligne par ligne des noirs et des blancs d'un texte à transmettre, est maintenant arrivée à un optimum technologique qui permet la transmission d'une page en 20 secondes, et l'année prochaine peut-être en 10 ou 15 secondes.

Certes, la télécopie ne peut encore remplacer tout à fait le télex, ne serait-ce que sur le plan de la preuve juridique, mais elle rend des services appréciables, surtout lorsque la tarification téléphonique est constituée de courtes périodes de temps, de l'ordre de 10 secondes.

Le réseau numérique est le réseau moderne tout à fait indispensable au développement économique, à l'accès à l'information technique et scientifique contenue dans les bases de données du monde entier. Les différentes mises en oeuvre à l'étranger, notamment en France dans le réseau Transpac, donnent une image fascinante des différents services qui peuvent être offerts aux universités, aux agences de presse et aux différents secteurs de l'économie:

- Messagerie professionnelle,
- Télé-surveillance dans les sites vulnérables,
- Annuaire électronique qui économise le papier et se trouve ainsi toujours à jour.

L'éventail actuel des services de données est large et se prolonge par des variantes qui correspondent à des normes en évolution progressive. Les pays en voie de développement, notamment ceux du Moyen-Orient, ne peuvent rester à l'écart de ces moyens de communication transfrontières. La mise à jour des connaissances en techniques numériques devient aussi nécessaire aux professionnels des télécommunications qu'aux décideurs du secteur des affaires. Très souvent, l'absence de réseau public fait naître des réseaux privés, alors que l'intérêt général nécessiterait de préférence des investissements collectifs.

JEUX

Mots Croisés

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.
1: artisan de la musique. 2: trouva la mort; a fait du tort. 3: unique. 4: forment le squelette; aînés. 5: dans la gamme; voie de communication. 6: épicer; cuever. 7: Institut National de l'Audiophonie; tache. 8: sot; pour mieux sauter. 9: saison. 10: primordiaux.

Verticalement.
A: irréalisable. B: pronon personnel; animal. C: certain; sans relief. D: marque l'excès; forme d'être. E: bruits indistincts; préposition. F: abîment. G: négation; bravo espagnol. H: attaque, quand il n'embarque pas. I: en terme d'Adam; précipitera. J: ouvriers.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 17:

Horizontalement.
1: populaires. 2: oursins; te. 4: encore; pas. 5: arbre; nu. 6: tristes. 7: têt; pile. 8: internés. 9: lea. 10: stèles; usas.

Verticalement.
A: potentiel. B: ou, ée. C: précaution. D: us; Orion. E: courbent. F: an; ers. G: iso; prou. H: Ain. I: étrangère. J: se; suées.

CINEMA

"Escalier C" (1985). Film de Jean-Charles Tachella, avec Robin Renacci et Jean-Pierre Bacri. Qui sont les locataires de l'escalier C? Ils ont en tout cas un point commun: ils ont tous une trentaine d'années... Centre Culturel Français, lundi 9 juillet à 20h00.

"Treasure of Sierra Madre", de John Huston, avec Humphrey Bogart et le père de John Huston, Walter Huston (1948). Western basé sur la recherche d'une mine d'or par trois personnages dont on découvre la psychologie au fur et à mesure que le trésor se rapproche. L'histoire se passe au Mexique. Le film reçut l'Oscar de la meilleure réalisation, du meilleur scénario et de la meilleure interprétation pour Walter Huston, l'année de sa sortie. Centre américain, dimanche 8 et lundi 12 juillet, à 19h00 (en anglais).

"Comfort and Joy", comédie du metteur en scène écossais Bill Forsyth, avec la belle Eleanor David, et Bill Paterson dans le rôle d'un disc-jockey. La rivalité de familles italiennes qui se livrent une guerre mafieuse, pour s'accaparer le marché de la confection et de la vente des glaces à Glasgow. British Council, le mercredi 11 à 19h.

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00. Dimanche: "Time after time" (1980), de Nicholas Meyer, avec Malcolm McDowell. Lundi: "Summer night sex comedy" (1982), de et avec Woody Allen. Mardi: "Ragtime" (1982), de Miles Forman. Mercredi: "Melvin and Howard" (1981), de Jonathan Demme, avec Mary Steenburgen. Jeudi: "Crosby Creek" (1982), de Martin Reed, avec Mary Steenburgen. Vendredi: "Romantic Comedy" (1982), d'Arthur Hiller, avec Dolly Parton. Samedi: "Dead of Winter" d'Arthur Penn, avec Mary Steenburgen.

Films en version originale. Route de l'université, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le club-club se trouve à environ 300 m, sur la gauche de la route.

Guerre. Série documentaire télévisée sur la Deuxième guerre mondiale, diffusée en douze épisodes de deux heures chacun, à raison d'un par jour. Deux séances quotidiennes: à 10h et à 17h. Voir FOCUS.

Centre culturel britannique, tous les jours ouvrables des mois de juillet et août

DIVERS

Guerre. Série documentaire télévisée sur la Deuxième guerre mondiale, diffusée en douze épisodes de deux heures chacun, à raison d'un par jour. Deux séances quotidiennes: à 10h et à 17h. Voir FOCUS.

Centre culturel britannique, tous les jours ouvrables des mois de juillet et août

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

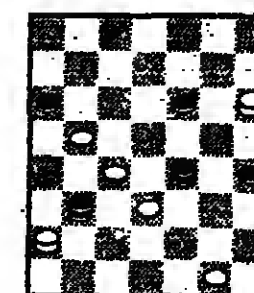
CORPORATION. Shanghai, la métropole de l'est de la Chine, a une nouvelle fois prouvé son esprit d'entreprise en permettant l'apparition d'une nouvelle corporation: celle des laveurs de bicyclettes, promis à un brillant avenir dans un pays qui compte 320 millions de vélos. En lavant dix bicyclettes dans la journée sur un coin de trottoir, à raison d'un Yuan (21 centes) par cycliste, ces petits entrepreneurs d'un genre nouveau disposent en fin de mois d'un salaire double de celui d'un enseignant.

DEMOGRAPHIE. La population mondiale est actuellement de 5,3 milliards d'habitants, dont 92 millions nés en 1990, et elle augmentera de 60% d'ici l'an 2025 pour atteindre le chiffre de 8,5 milliards, selon les estimations de l'ONU. D'ici 2025, 15% de la population vivra dans les pays développés contre 23% en 1990.

OPIUM. La production d'opium dans le Triangle d'or devrait faire un bond significatif en 1990 pour atteindre quelque 2.500 tonnes, un record pour la décennie, selon la police thaïlandaise. Le gros de la production viendra des Etats Shan, situés dans le nord-est de la Birmanie, puis du Laos. 600 à 800 tonnes d'opium seront réservées à la production de 60 à 80 tonnes d'héroïne.

DAMES

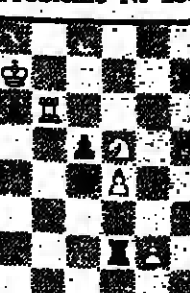
Problème N. 18.



Les blancs gagnent en quatre coups.

ECHECS

Problème N. 18.



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 17:

B. 22-18; N. 14-7; B. 29-25; N. 13-22; B. 25-18; N. 22-13; B. 23-19; N. 16-23; B. 15-20; N. 8-22; B. 20-4.

إلى من الجول

Namibia's first budget avoids tax increases

WINDHOEK (R) — Namibia avoided tax increases in its first budget since becoming independent from South Africa in March, but it acknowledged that living within such tight limits could prove difficult.

The new government has pledged a programme of social improvement for impoverished blacks.

Finance Minister Otto Herrigel estimated revenue for the 1990/91 financial year at 2.37 billion rand (\$896 million) and said spending would rise by five per cent to 2.58 billion rand (\$980 million).

"It must be admitted that it was and will be a formidable task to stay within these limits," he said.

"Independence entails additional overhead expenditure such as new ministries, embassies, a customs department, et cetera. The government also needs to provide more and better health, education and housing services to the heretofore neglected majority of the population," he said.

The financial year begins April 1 but the budget was delayed due to the independence handover and pending an aid donors' conference in New York last month.

Herrigel said the government did not plan any tax increases to finance its projected budget deficit.

"I intend to raise loans to finance the deficit and once Namibia's own central bank is established an overdraft may be arranged for part of it," he said.

Namibia's foreign debt was 726.5 million rand (\$275 million), he said.

He said tax levels at 33 per cent of gross domestic product already compared with those of developed countries.

"Company tax at present is already at a high level and increases at this stage would not be conducive to economic development and the investment climate that government tries to create," he said.

"Mining taxation is, however, under review and will hopefully lead to a more uniform taxation structure in future," Herrigel said.

The leftist-ruling South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has promised to create a favourable climate for foreign investment and says it will follow largely free market policies.

World Bank lending declines by \$600m

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lending by the World Bank, the biggest source of aid to the Third World, has declined in the past 12 months for the first time since 1985, the bank has reported.

The decrease was due partly to a reduction in loans to China after it used its military to stop a pro-democracy movement.

New loans for the year which ended June 30, came to \$20.7 billion. That was \$600 million less than the \$21.3 billion of the year before.

Loans to China dropped by more than \$700 million, falling to \$90 million from \$1.3 billion in the year before the suppression of the democracy movement.

Just after the Chinese government moved its military forces against demonstrators, bank president Barber Conable withdrew \$780 million worth of loans for China from consideration.

Then President George Bush asked the bank to halt lending to China. Later there was international agreement that new loans should be limited to basic human needs.

The past year also brought a large drop in World Bank lending to India, where loans fell to \$1.9 billion from \$3 billion the year before. But bank officials said that was a coincidence and not the result of policy.

Mexico displaced India as the biggest borrower, taking \$2.6 billion compared with \$2.2 billion in the previous year.

Lending by the bank had been rising steadily, and is expected to increase again in the next 12 months.

The bank is now playing a much bigger role in what used to be considered the "second world." European countries that have been under Communist rule.

"We have initiated lending to Poland for a total of some \$780 million this fiscal year... and have continued our programmes in Hungary," an official said.

"We are preparing support programmes for Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, both of which are expected to become bank members in the coming year, and are ready to resume our activities in Romania," he added.

The late Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu paid off almost all Romania's debts but the country has remained among the bank's 151 member countries.

The Soviet Union has never belonged. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady spoke recently of creating some tie between the Soviets, the bank and its sister organisation, The International Monetary Fund.

The Soviet Union will be a member of the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but for three years will be able to borrow only as much as it contributes in the form of paid-in capital.

Norwegian oil workers call off wildcat strikes

OSLO (R) — Norway's North Sea oil and gas output was returning to normal Saturday after six days of wildcat strikes, the state oil firm Statoil said.

Norway's biggest oilfield Statoil, operated by Statoil, was closed Friday, along with Statoil's Gullfaks A and B, because the strikes endangered safety.

But Statoil spokesman Morten Woldstad said: "The strikes have been called off and all fields are on their way up to normal production. There will be full production sometime this weekend."

Norway normally produces close to 700,000 barrels per day of oil from Statoil, which straddles the British sector of the North Sea, while the Gullfaks field usually averages around 275,000 b/d.

Output was hit by a series of strikes after the centre-right government outlawed a legally-declared strike by Norway's biggest oil workers' union, saving a long stoppage could cripple the economy.

About 1,000 workers, infuriated by the decree, blocked helicopter pads to prevent non-strikers reaching the oilfields.

But Woldstad said helicopters had started shuttling workers out to the platforms, adding: "They called off the strike without setting conditions."

"Norway... Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, normally produces around 1.7 million b/d and also pumps around 30 billion cubic metres of gas a year."

Government readies Romanians for reforms

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Finance minister Theodor Stolojan warned Romanians of impending unemployment and taxes as the government pushes through economic reforms, according to a report published last week.

"Unemployment, bankruptcies, income taxes and value-added taxes will be consequences of the shock therapy necessary to transform from a Stalinist economy to a market economy," Stolojan told the daily Romania Libera.

Stolojan estimated that the cost of transforming the highly centralised economy — "repairing the damages of the former dictatorship" — would be around \$1 billion. He did not elaborate on what the costs would entail.

Prime Minister Petre Roman told parliament last week, upon being named to the post, that a package of economic reform laws will be ready within six months. He presented a programme of wide-ranging radical economic changes.

At its first meeting Thursday, the new government issued a statement declaring that salaries in the future will be linked to production and announced plans for partial payments to the unemployed.

The statement said "the economy can no longer support the payment for work that was not performed."

The interim government, installed after the revolution that ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, had issued payments from state coffers regardless of whether a given state enterprise was meeting its production targets.

Factories which have been idled because other companies they depended on for raw materials or spare parts failed to meet contracts will be able to sue those enterprises, the statement said.

They will be able to claim damages equal to the amount of salaries that would have been paid had the workers been active during that period, it said.

This recourse was unavailable to workers in Romania under Ceausescu's iron-fisted rule.

The government also announced that workers who are jobless because their industries failed will nevertheless receive 50 per cent of their wage until a new package of economic laws is passed, which is likely to include unemployment compensation.

In anticipation of the economic reforms to come, Romanians, attempting to beat a possible devaluation of the Romanian leu and a corresponding rise in gasoline prices, formed long lines at gas stations all over the country.

The official exchange rate is 21 lei to one dollar, while the black market rate often exceeds 100 lei to the dollar.

A devaluation by as much as 50 or 100 per cent is expected before August.

British Airways orders \$7b worth of new planes

LONDON (AP) — British Airways PLC announced Friday it had ordered as many as 33 Boeing Co. 747 aircraft worth up to \$6.9 billion, the airline's biggest-ever investment in new planes.

The firm order for 21 747-400s is the fourth-largest ever for Seattle-based Boeing in dollar value.

British Airways said it was seeking extra passenger capacity as well as replacements for its older aircraft.

Analysts said the airline was placing the order now so it would not have to wait long for new airplanes amid growing world demand to replace older aircraft.

"All they're doing is protecting their position in terms of requirements. They didn't want to be last in the queue," said Dan White, an analyst with the London investment firm County Natwest Woodmac.

British Airways said it has placed firm order for 21 new Boeing 747-400 long-range aircraft for \$2.33 billion, the equivalent of \$4.15 billion, and has taken an option to buy 12 more for \$1.55 billion, or \$2.8 billion.

Deliveries will start in 1992 and are expected to be completed seven years later, bringing British Airways' 747-400 fleet to 42 aircraft on the basis of firm orders.

The company has bought 21 747-400s since 1986 and operates 224 airplanes in all.

"The aircraft will provide extra capacity as well as allowing us to replace older Boeing 747 equipment," British Airways chairman Lord King said.

Rolls-Royce PLC won the \$1.07-billion contract for the engines, the airline said.

Delors urges radical overhaul to world financial system

BRUSSELS (R) — European Commission President Jacques Delors said Friday East European countries' efforts to restructure their economies might come to nothing unless the West acted to reduce their debt.

In a speech at the end of a conference on Eastern Europe's economies, Delors said the debt question was at the heart of what he called "the world economic disorder," and he urged a radical overhaul of the international financial system.

"If solutions are not found for alleviating the debt burden in the most difficult and dramatic phase of economic reform, I fear the debt burden will cancel out the positive efforts which could be made to achieve a budgetary structure that is more operational and does more to stimulate the creation of a market economy..." he said.

Delors said any debt relief for Eastern Europe would have to be granted to Latin American, African and Asian debtors too.

The world's 15 most heavily indebted developing countries, far from receiving any fresh money, had paid out \$30 billion to richer nations last year, he said.

"We thus have a financial system which is absolutely incomprehensible and which is a fantastic obstacle to the solution of our problems... (and) to an equitable economic order," Delors said.

The former Soviet satellites needed help to integrate them into the world economy and their push away from communism and central economic planning "will raise again, and in a radical way, the question of a new economic order," he added.

The European Commission, the European Community's executive body, is responsible for coordinating aid to Eastern European reformist governments from a group of 24 rich nations.

The two-day conference was attended by several leading economists and government officials from Eastern Europe, including Hungarian Economics Minister Bela Kadar and Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Zdenek Pirek.

Delors, a former French Socialist finance minister, pointed to pollution as the other big burden weighing on Eastern Europe's reform programme alongside debt.

Cuba shuns U.S. 'carrot'

HAVANA (R) — Cuba has urged Latin America to reject an economic initiative for the region announced by President George Bush, saying it was an attempt to extend U.S. domination in the hemisphere.

"President Bush's words reveal the traditional policy of the carrot and the stick," the official Communist Party newspaper Granma said in a front-page editorial.

Saying that the welcome given to the plan by some Latin American governments was premature, Granma added: "We have to organise once again a common line of defence."

The U.S. president's proposal included writing off part of Latin American debt to the United States, new lending and investment programmes and a \$100 million U.S. contribution for a new investment fund for the region.

Granma dismissed the proposal as "crumbs" and said the United States continued to treat Latin America and the Caribbean as though the region was its own backyard.

It said the Bush proposal came at a time when "American imperialism" was at its highest following the U.S. invasion of Panama last December.

"In this way, the (Bush) initiative for the Americas, far from opening the way for the economic liberation of Latin America and the Caribbean, becomes a new instrument of Yankee domination over our countries," the newspaper added.

Granma said that while welcoming other Latin American nations' support for the initiative, Cuba singled out Cuba for attack.

"We are, so he says, the only exception in a Latin America that is becoming democratic," it said.

However, Cuba's exception consists of it being a country without people who disappear or are tortured, a country where people don't have to rob to live," Granma added.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, July 7, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	665.0	669.0
Pound Sterling	1187.4	1194.5
Deutsche mark	402.4	404.8
Swiss franc	475.6	478.5
French franc	119.9	120.6
Japanese yen (for 100)	438.4	441.0
Dutch guilder	357.3	359.4
Swedish crown	111.1	111.8
Italian lira (for 100)	54.9	55.2
Belgian franc (for 10)	196.5	197.7

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Rent to be paid annually.

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1988 Golf GTI — 16V — 30,000 km — excellent condition.

Phone: 818669 after 2 p.m.

RAINBOW

1) PICASSO TRIGGER
At 3:30 - 6:30

2) BEVERLY HILLS
At 8:30 p.m.

MAID MISSING

A Filipina maid, called Josefina Samson, has left her employer's home on June 30, 1990.

It was discovered that she took with her some valuable things and she is wanted by police.

Anybody who knows her whereabouts is kindly requested to contact the nearest police station and anyone who is offering her refuge will be legally responsible.

SECRETARY REQUIRED

A leading tourism company in Amman is in need of a secretary with a minimum of 3 years experience in office work (telex, typing, filing) and with full command of the English language (Arabic language helpful but not essential).

Interested applicants should write with CV details + one photo to:

The Manager, P.O. Box 1803, Amman.

Apartment or Semi-Villa Wanted For Rent

A foreigner is looking for an apartment with 03 bedrooms (including 01-master bedroom) w/ built-in closets, telephone, independent heating system, fully equipped kitchen (dishwasher, refrigerator, oven, washing machine), 250 m² of area. Located preferably between 3rd & 7th Circles.

Contact Mr. Ali at 842168 from 09:00 till 15:00, on Monday.

CONCORD

Dureld Lahham / Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUN

Silverster Stallone
in
TANGO & CASH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

PLAZA

Silverster Stallone
in
TANGO & CASH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

Bonn, Moscow welcome results of NATO summit

BONN (AP) — West Germany welcomed the results of Friday's NATO alliance meeting in London, including the decision that the size of a united German military be negotiated at ongoing arms talks in Vienna.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who had proposed that the united German military be a subject for the talks on Europe's conventional forces, called it "a historic summit for Europe."

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, chairman of the Free Democrats, the junior partner in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing coalition, said the summit was an "important contribution toward the development of permanent security structures in Europe" and "substantial help for the German reunification process."

The Soviet Union had wanted the question of German troop levels, one of the contentious points in discussions over approaching German unification, negotiated in the "two-plus-four" talks among the four World War II victors and the Germans.

West Germany, which wants international approval of unification, nonetheless rejected that idea, not wanting its forces to be subject to armistice.

Negotiating the size of Germany's military in the "two-plus-four" talks would have amounted to the victorious World War II allies setting German troop levels.

The German delegation was not pleased with the outcome of the summit, a government source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another source said "it was our very clear intention" to have the size of a united Germany military negotiated at the conventional arms talks in Vienna.

The NATO leaders said that immediately after the current round of talks with the Warsaw Pact on cutting conventional forces in Europe, a second round would begin.

"With this goal in mind, a commitment will be given at the time of signature of the CFE treaty concerning the manpower levels of a united Germany," the alliance's final communiqué said.

Genscher, in an interview with London's West Germany's RIAS radio, said the summit had sent a "clear and significant political signal" to the Soviet Union and the countries of Middle and Eastern Europe that there would be cooperation on disarmament.

And he said Germany could lead the way in that cooperation by giving the Soviets assurances on what would be the future strength of a united German military.

West Germany's full-time military troop level is 465,000, with 30,000 active-duty reservists who can be called into action immediately.

East Germany's military strength, debilitated by defections following the collapse of the Communist government, is 97,000, Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said this week.

Defence Ministry sources in Bonn said this week the government was willing to consider limiting post-unification troop strengths to about 400,000.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said at the last round of "two-plus-four" talks in Berlin the Soviets would like to see a united German army of 200,000-250,000.

Shevardnadze Friday welcomed the outcome of a NATO summit and said decisions taken at the meeting paved the way to a safe future for Europe.

In a statement issued by TASS news agency, Shevardnadze specifically welcomed an offer by NATO to conclude a joint peace declaration and he said Moscow would consult its Warsaw Pact allies to coordinate action on this.

"The decisions adopted (at the NATO summit) move in the right direction and pave the way to a safe future for the entire European continent," he said.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union attached huge importance to the statement that NATO member countries had no aggressive intentions and were committed to never using force first.

"The Soviet Union positively assesses the NATO member countries' appeal to the Warsaw treaty member states to adopt a joint declaration which would solemnly declare that we are no longer opponents and confirm our aspiration to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state..."

He added Moscow would consult with the other six Warsaw Pact member states about the peace declaration.

He hailed as constructive NATO's proposal to establish closer contacts with the Pact, including military ones, and NATO's invitations to Gorbachev and other East European leaders to visit NATO headquarters.

NATO offer helps Gorbachev to silence generals

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet officials have welcomed NATO's dramatic peace initiative and said it handed President Mikhail Gorbachev ammunition to silence his angry generals.

"It is a bold and welcome step in the right direction," said Foreign Ministry chief spokesman Gennady Gerasimov of NATO's "peace package" presented Friday after a summit in London.

"Now we can tell those grumbling generals that they are wrong. This has come at a good time because he (Gorbachev) is being criticised," Gerasimov told reporters.

Military hawks at the 28th Soviet Communist Party Congress have sharply criticised the foreign policy pursued by Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The NATO declaration pledged radical reforms to its military forces and a new role for nuclear weapons to reflect the transformation of Europe and the end of the cold war. It also invited the Warsaw Pact to make a joint peace declaration and asked Gorbachev to attend a future alliance summit.

"Moscow has been seeking changes in the NATO doctrine, and that's what they will be getting," Gorbachev and Shevardnadze can tell their critics: "You said NATO is not changing. Well, here's the evidence," said a senior Western diplomat.

Gorbachev, interviewed by an American television network shortly before the declaration was issued, said he saw "very constructive signs coming out of this summit." He also told ABC news he was "always ready to go" to a future NATO summit.

Gerasimov, asked whether Gorbachev would take up the offer to go to NATO headquarters in Brussels, said: "I see nothing wrong with this. Going to Brussels, why not?"

Western diplomats said NATO's pledge to reform its forces might also help persuade the Kremlin to accept the idea of a united Germany being a member of the Western alliance.

Gorbachev has said publicly he would like a unified Germany to be associated with both NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Western analysts believe he would accept German membership in NATO if he could find a way to "sell" the idea to his military.

Some members of the Soviet military's top brass have accused Gorbachev and Shevardnadze of leaving the country vulnerable to Western aggression by arms reductions and allowing democratic revolutions to sweep away pro-Soviet regimes in Eastern Europe.

They say NATO itself has continued to modernise its weapons stocks while the Soviet Union has progressively disarmed itself.

In the latest such attack Major-General Ivan Mikulin, a delegate to the 28th party congress in Moscow, accused Soviet diplomats of "looking at the world through rose-coloured glasses" and said the West was "building up its own security exclusively at our expense."

Mikulin, amplifying these comments Friday, said he believed the Foreign Ministry had acted over-hastily in pulling troops out of Eastern Europe.

Moscow has agreed with the new non-Communist governments in Hungary and Czechoslovakia to withdraw some 125,000 troops from there by the middle of next year.

E. European upheavals help raise EC population by 1.8m

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Community's (EC) population rose by 1.75 million in 1989, largely due to the upheavals in Eastern Europe that sent a million people into West Germany alone, the EC statistics agency Eurostat has reported.

It put the population of the 12 EC states at just over 327 million as of Jan. 1, 1990, up from 325.3 million at the start of 1988.

The end of East German border controls, Eurostat said, "resulted in an estimated net inflow of about 1 million people into the Federal Republic of Germany" in 1989, the greatest number for that country since the EC's creation in 1957.

By far the most newcomers in West Germany in 1989 were East Germans, although Eurostat did not list the immigrants' nationalities.

Overall, net migration — immigrants minus emigrants — differed widely from one EC state to

the next last year. Luxembourg posted a high rate of immigration due to its "attractive labour market," Eurostat said in a survey.

But "in Ireland... the flow of emigration continues resulting in a loss of 22,000 in 1989," even though Ireland has the highest rate of natural growth of all EC nations, the survey found.

"The other (EC) states, which already have a very low fertility rate and an aging population structure, have lower rates of natural increase."

Eurostat gave these population figures, in millions, for each EC state:

West Germany, 62.7; Italy, 57.6; Britain, 57.3; France, 56.3; Spain, 38.9; the Netherlands, 14.9; Portugal, 10.3; Greece, 10; Belgium, 9.9; Denmark, 5.1; and Ireland, 3.5. Luxembourg's population stands at 378,000.

In 1989, the EC recorded 41,000 fewer births than in 1988,

a drop of 1.1 per cent. The drop was highest in Spain, Italy and Ireland.

The number of marriages in the EC last year rose by 25,600, or 1.5 per cent from 1988, bringing "the Community's marriage rate back up to its 1981 level," Eurostat said.

"Ireland and France share last place in the marriage stakes," it said, "although the trends in these two countries are moving in opposite directions."

"Since the beginning of the 1980s, Ireland's marriage rate has been falling steadily... whereas France's marriage rate, after falling continuously over the previous 15 years, has been rising slightly since 1988."

In 1989, the Portuguese were most eager to wed, followed by the Britons, the West Germans, the Belgians, the Dutch, the Greeks, the Danes, the Luxembourgers, the Spaniards, the Italians, the Irish and the French.

Democrats, Republicans clash over Soviet threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats and Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee are clashing over how much of a military threat the Soviet Union continues to pose. The stakes are high: millions of dollars in defence spending.

The 17 Democrats on the committee's Special Defence Policy Panel concluded in a report released Friday that the Soviet conventional threat to the United States and its Western allies is "greatly diminished and cannot be revived."

Based on that assessment, reductions in defence spending are in order, they said.

"Old assumptions about the Soviet threat don't jibe with reality anymore," said committee Chairman Les Aspin, a Democrat. "Many of the changes are irreversible, and that means we can cut selectively without jeopardising our security."

But the 15 Republicans on the panel rejected that view as overly optimistic.

"Endorsing this report is tantamount to believing that the Soviet Union is already militarily impotent and not a global power to be reckoned with. Such a view is more wishful thinking than a reflection of reality," said Rep. William Dickinson of Alabama, ranking Republican on the committee.

The Congress is controlled by Democrats, but President George Bush is a Republican.

The Republicans, in a dissent included in the 310-page report, cited the absence of a U.S.-Soviet treaty to scale back conventional forces in Europe, the nuclear future of a unified Germany and the economic and political instability in Eastern Europe.

The Republicans said the House-approved budget calls for too little defence spending — \$296 billion for the 1991 fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1.

Bush has proposed spending \$303 billion on defence in fiscal 1991.

"We believe that the House defence spending figure, which in percentage terms cuts defence spending three times more than the president's budget does, is imprudent," the Republican congressmen said.

Major Sri Lankan rebel camp encircled by troops

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Intense fighting broke out in eastern Sri Lanka Saturday after soldiers surrounded an important rebel base and cut off sea and land escape routes, military officials said.

At least 62 rebels and four civilians were killed Friday and Saturday in the latest fighting between Tamil Tiger rebels and government security forces, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The killings raised to more than 2,000 the number of combatants killed in nearly a month of new fighting in Sri Lanka's north and east, where the rebels seek autonomy from the Sinhalese-dominated government. Many civilians also have died.

Scores of rebels are believed trapped in the base in the Karikudiaru jungles, used as a training centre by the rebels and fortified with bunkers and a network of tunnels, the officials said.

At least five rebels were killed when the camp was discovered Friday. Heavy fighting erupted overnight but there were no immediate reports of further casualties, the officials said.

Troop reinforcements moved in and naval gunships patrolled the coast to seal off rebel escape routes.

The camp is believed to be the largest rebel base in eastern Sri Lanka.

In other fighting, at least 39 Tigers were killed Friday when the navy bombed boats carrying the rebels, the military officials said.

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The bodies of 11 rebels were found near the east coast town of Trincomalee and five guerrillas were killed in Batticaloa, also on the east coast, they said.

Two rebels riding on a motorcycle were shot and killed in the eastern district of Ampara, and residents of Batticaloa found the bodies of four men in the city Friday, the officials said.

The four were believed to be civilians who were caught in crossfire, they said.

The rebels have suffered heavy losses in the east, but in the north, the Tigers hold most of the territory and have surrounded military installations.

There were no reports Saturday of casualties in the north, but military officials said sporadic fighting was continuing.

The current round of fighting broke out June 11, when the rebels broke a 13-month ceasefire.

Tamil militants have been campaigning for an independent homeland since 1983, claiming their community is discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

The mainly Hindu Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist, comprise 75 per cent and dominate the military and the government.

At least 13,000 people have died in the seven-year-old war. Sri Lanka's parliament Friday paved the way for elections in the Tamil rebel-dominated north and east, one of the rebels' key demands.

But government officials also said the rebels would be crushed:

New Peruvian government troubled before taking power

LIMA (AP) — President-elect Alberto Fujimori pleased bankers and businessmen in New York and Tokyo this week with his tough plan to pull Peru out of economic chaos.

But selling the economic "shock" to Peruvians is likely to be much more difficult. Every day the congressional coalition needed to approve such a plan seems more unlikely.

Both the right and left "have hurriedly begun a battle for leadership of the opposition," said Mirko Laufer, a political commentator.

"The message is clear, and negative," Laufer said. "It is more profitable to oppose an inherent

weak government than to help it overcome the crisis."

Fujimori beat novelist Mario Vargas Llosa by a landslide in June 10 runoff presidential elections.

Once a stout opponent of Vargas Llosa's free-market economic policies, Fujimori reversed himself after the election. He now strongly favours most elements of the novelist's economic shock programme.

Many economists believe a harsh economic adjustment is necessary in Peru. Inflation tops 2,000 per cent a year. Four of five people lack steady work. A bloated state bureaucracy quickly soaks up scarce tax revenues.

Liberian rebels tighten noose around capital

MONROVIA (AP) — Rebels have tightened their noose on the capital, attacking the port near the fortified mansion of besieged Liberian President Samuel Doe.

"Don't die for Doe," rebels only two miles from the executive beachfront enclave urged demoralised government troops Friday. Many soldiers were abandoning their posts.

Meanwhile, renewed talks to end the 6-month-old civil war in this West African nation stalled Friday because a rebel delegation had not reached the negotiating site in neighbouring Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Doe, who seized power in a bloody coup in 1980, was holed up in his mansion with troops who have remained loyal. His top commanders and advisers fled last week.

The rebels led by Charles Taylor, a former Doe aide, accuse the government of corruption and human rights abuses.

Automatic rifle fire and artillery blasts echoed across the capital from dawn until noon Friday, and plumes of smoke from explosions rose from the

city outskirts.

A rebel fishing trawler fired at a coast guard cutter about eight kilometres offshore, and a cannon from Doe's mansion fired two shells into the ocean to deter rebels boats. Witnesses said the rebels withdrew from the port later in the day.

The United States supplied water to the president's mansion under heavy guard by U.S. Marines. Four American vehicles escorted a water tanker to the mansion early Friday morning, a witness said.

In Abidjan, the capital of neighbouring Ivory Coast, diplomatic sources said Doe had asked the United States to ferry him and 100 troops to his home region of Grand Gedeh county. The United States refused the request, which would have enabled Doe to continue the war, the sources said.

A senior U.S. government source in Washington said Doe had mentioned a desire to visit his home region, but did not ask for assistance to get there.

The United States has offered to help Doe leave Liberia, a condition set by rebels before

they will accept a ceasefire. Doe reportedly has offered to resign on condition his safety and that of his fellow Krahn is guaranteed.

Much of the civil war fighting has pitted Liberia's ethnic groups — Krahn, Mandingo, Gio, Mano and descendants of the American slaves who founded the country — against each other.

A senior rebel official, based in the United States, rejected a reported plan for the six West African nations that were leading the negotiations to send a peacekeeping force to Liberia to oversee new elections.

But the rebel official, Tom Woewiyi, said he would go to Freetown for the talks.

Soldiers continued to loot in Monrovia under cover of a dusk-to-dawn curfew, but residents said the looting was less widespread than during the previous night.

Many of the city's 500,000 residents searched for food and carried buckets of water from rapidly depleting wells.

Monrovia has been without water for nine days and without electricity for one week. Most

shops and markets have been closed all week, and some people have been begging for food or collecting leaves to eat.

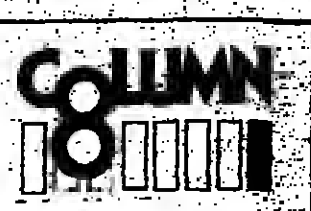
The rebels began attacking the capital Monday, but their progress has been slow.

Rebel sources in Ivory Coast said 4,500 more troops joined the original assault contingent of 800 men Wednesday night, but the insurgents failed to live up to their claim that they could take Monrovia in 12 hours.

The rebels invaded on Dec. 24 from the Ivory Coast. Doe's forces then killed hundreds of civilians Gio and Mano, seen as the main support base for the rebels. The rebels sought revenge by killing Krahn and the Mandingos who have supported him.

Taylor has gained much support throughout the country, but the United States and other governments have questioned his commitment to democracy and free elections.

Reports of summary executions of suspected Doe supporters, as well as the reported execution of one of the founding members of Taylor's movement, also have damaged his credibility.



Ancient jewelry stolen from Louvre

PARIS (AP) — About a dozen ancient necklaces, bracelets and earrings were stolen from the Louvre Museum, one of three Paris museums victimized by art thieves this week, officials from the Museum of France said Friday. Officials said the jewelry was stolen from a display case in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities. The discovery of the thefts was made last Wednesday, the same day a Renault was cut from its frame at the Louvre and two other paintings stolen from two smaller Paris museums. The missing jewelry, which dates from the second and third centuries, did not have a high market value, the officials said. It was discovered missing during an inspection by department curators.

Kennedy braves sharks to save couple

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — U.S. Congressman Joe Kennedy dove into shark-filled waters to help rescue a couple whose boat overturned in a tangle with a 485-pound (220-kilogramme) marlin, according to Kennedy and the skipper of his charter boat. The 37-year-old legislator from Massachusetts is the son of Robert Kennedy, the former attorney general who was assassinated while running for president. He is the nephew of slain President John F. Kennedy. The rescue took place last Sunday while he was on vacation in Hawaii with his twin 9-year-old sons, Joseph Jr. and Matthew. He was taking part in a fishing tournament with a fellow congressman, Bart Gordon, and two athletes — NFL football player Colin Scott and former NFL player John "Whizzer" Tate. The crew of Kennedy's boat heard a distress call on the craft's radio Sunday when the charter was about five kilometres off Kailua-Kona, on the west side of Hawaii island, said Chuck Harlan, captain of the charter boat "Keala." The woman said their boat was sinking, and she gave four different locations. Harlan said in a telephone interview Wednesday, "We saw lights out in the water and continued trolling in that direction." When they got close, they could see a man and a woman hanging onto an overturned fishing boat, Harlan said. Kennedy and others on the charter leapt in the water to save the couple, Harlan said. Kennedy said, "Joe, Colin and my son Mike jumped in and swam over to the boat." Harlan said.

Tammy Faye loses bid to pray in plastic warehouse

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — Disgraced television Evangelist Tammy Faye Bakker has lost her bid to establish her new church in a Florida warehouse. The Orange County zoning board rejected unanimously Bakker's bid to locate her new covenant ministries — the successor to the scandal-plagued PTL (Praise the Lord/People That Love) Club — in the building, a board spokesman said. Orange County authorities said no churches are allowed in areas designated for industrial use. Bakker, supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, said the government should not dictate where anyone should preach or pray. The building is not far from Disneyworld and once was used to store plastic food containers. The church held one service on the site in March, but authorities were tipped off by a local pizzeria owner, who feared his liquor licence would be revoked if a church operated within 300 metres of his establishment.

Dogs get welfare in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — A dog is a man's best friend and must be looked after at public cost when his owner is in jail, a Swedish court has ruled. Alvsborg County court in western Sweden overruled a welfare office which said it would pay only for the destruction, not the upkeep, of a man's two dogs while he served a three-month sentence. The owner, 38, convicted of larceny and minor offences, argued that the dogs were his only companions and were important to his eventual rehabilitation in work and social life. The court ordered the welfare office to pay 3,000 crowns (\$500) kennel fees for the two dogs for three months.

ANC-Pretoria talks to resume July 18

KAMPALA (R) — South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela said the African National Congress (ANC) and the government will resume talks on July 18.

The deputy president of the ANC named the date Friday during a state dinner hosted by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. On July 18 Mandela will celebrate his 72nd birthday. Mandela is on the last leg of a triumphant tour of North Amer-

ica, Europe and Africa. Mandela, who first mentioned the date in Washington, said he expected the government to release all remaining political prisoners, but did not say when.

Prospects for dismantling apartheid were better now than ever before, he added.

South African President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the ANC in February and freed Mandela from a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

The ANC and the government have held preliminary talks but the ANC has said substantive talks could only begin after remaining political prisoners are freed and all exiles are allowed to return home.

Presidents Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, in Kampala for talks ahead of a summit of African leaders in Addis Ababa, also attended the dinner.

17 die in Texas plant explosion

CHANNELVIEW, Texas (AP) — An explosion and fire ripped through a section of a chemical plant "like a rocket just took off," killing 17 workers, authorities and witnesses said.

The explosion occurred late Thursday as crew were cleaning waste tanks at the Arco Chemical Co. plant in this Houston suburb. The 564-acre (228-hectare) complex employs about 350 people.

Five workers were injured. "We're in the process of recovering the victims from the fire," Richard Bailey, chief investigator for the Harris County Sheriff's Department Arson Divi-

sion, said at midday. "It looks like a bomb went off in there."

Plant Manager Earl McCaleb, his voice breaking, called the explosion and fire "a terrible tragedy" and "an overwhelming sadness, the loss of friends and co-workers."

Officials said they believed they had accounted for all of the missing. Earlier, officials had said there were 15 confirmed dead and one missing. There was no immediate explanation on why the death toll then jumped up by two.

Arco said four people were treated for minor injuries and

released, and one person was hospitalised, but could not give further details. None of the victims was immediately identified.

McCaleb said the blaze was not extinguished until more than four hours after the explosion.

The blast occurred in a utility area, a remote section that provides cooling, water and steam for plant operations. The explosion involved two tanks containing wastewater and some hydrocarbons, McCaleb said.

Officials said there were an unusually large number of people in the area of the plant complex

July 10, 1990